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Peter Barnard finds a hospital TV series to warm a minister's heart, page 47

20P

# THE TIMES

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THURSDAY FEBRUARY 2 1995

## Major makes TV appeal for peace

### There is nothing you need fear, Ulster is told

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

JOHN MAJOR tried to keep alive the Ulster peace process last night with a television address in which he assured the people of Northern Ireland that fears of a sell-out to Dublin were groundless.

He asked for time and trust, declaring that the prize of lasting peace must not be thrown away "by fears that are unreal and accusations that are untrue".

His national broadcast, only the third of his premiership, came as a mood of crisis engulfed the Government over yesterday's disclosures in *The Times* of proposals drawn up by the British and Irish Governments for constitutional settlement in the Province.

In a direct plea to the people he called on them to judge the Government's proposals as a whole. "The horrors of Enniskillen and Greysteel are behind you. After five months of peace, surely it is time to look ahead. Judge our proposals as a whole. There is nothing you need fear," he said.

Mr Major confirmed the *Times* disclosure that cross-border co-operation between Northern Ireland and the Republic was being considered. But he said that any new North-South bodies must be accountable to the people of Northern Ireland. "They will not be run by London and they cannot and will not be overridden by the British and Irish Governments."

The five-minute broadcast underlined the seriousness with which Mr Major regarded yesterday's developments. He has used his right to deliver similar non-partisan broadcasts at the time of the Gulf War and after the signing of the Downing Street declaration. Tony Blair will deliver a similar broadcast tonight.

Mr Major spoke after politicians in Dublin. Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland secretary, and other ministers had spent the day desperately trying to lessen the impact of revelations that the Government said had damaged the peace efforts.

Ulster Unionists, angered by the disclosure of plans for a joint North-South authority with executive powers, threatened to withdraw backing from the Government, and if necessary provoke a general election, if plans similar to those in the leaked version were proposed.

David Trimble, MP for Upper Bann, declared: "If they come forward with a document which contains proposals hostile to the Union we will not be able either to enter into talks on the basis of that document or continue any sort of relationship with the Government." After the support it had received from James Molyneux, his party leader, it was a "dam shabby trick" for the Government to turn round and stab him in the back, he said.

But in his broadcast the Prime Minister said that people were wrong in every respect to fear the document would be a blueprint to impose unity in all Ireland and a betrayal of promises. "Let me say to you tonight: nothing is going to be imposed on Northern Ireland. New arrangements will only work if they are agreed by the people of Northern Ireland, supported by them and operated by them."

Mr Major said: "Northern Ireland has come a very long way since the Downing Street declaration. It must not drift backwards. I wish to see this process succeed, arms decommissioned, talks going ahead, every honourable avenue to settlement explored, then the outcome put to the people. For it is up to the people of Northern Ireland to decide whether fear can give way to hope."

John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, said in Dublin.



Mr Major on his way to the Commons. "After five months of peace, surely it is time to look ahead. Judge our proposals as a whole," he said on television last night

lin that the leak could damage the peace process. There was no evidence that it originated from the Irish side. Dick Spring, his deputy, condemned the "totally selective and tendentious" use of excerpts from the draft paper and said: "Full allowance must be made for the blatant political agenda behind it."

In the Commons there were several fierce attacks on *The Times* for publishing the leak. To cheers Andrew Hunter, chairman of the backbench Northern Ireland committee, accused the newspaper of "scandalous irresponsibility". Sir Patrick had earlier told a sombre Commons that he accepted "the damage to confidence that has been done and doubtless was intended to be done". But he flatly denied the interpretation in the *Times* report that the two Governments had formulated plans that brought the prospect of a united Ireland closer than it had been since partition.

He promised that the Government would not propose arrangements for joint authority over Northern Ireland, nor any North-South body that

was autonomous. He confirmed, however, that the creation of cross-border bodies accountable to a Northern Ireland elected assembly was being considered.

Sir Patrick said he recognised in the *Times* report "a few phrases lifted highly selectively from a lengthy negotiating text employed in the discussions with the Irish Government but upon which the Governments have not agreed." He would not be drawn into premature publication of the document "in reaction to distorting leaks calculated to destabilise and destroy this immensely sensitive process."

Sir Patrick also reassured the Unionists that the Government would reject proposals that left in place Dublin's territorial claim to Northern Ireland.

He denied that the document would be a blueprint: it would be offered to the parties and they could accept it, reject it, amend it or adapt it. Any agreement by the parties must be put to the people in a referendum, and the consent

## Loneliness of Unionists exposed

COMMONS SKETCH BY MATTHEW PARRIS

FOR an Ulster Unionist the Commons Chamber must yesterday have seemed a lonely place. Never in your sketch-writer's recollection has the impatience of the House of Commons with Unionist suspicions been more palpably demonstrated, or the Unionist parties' isolation clearer.

If at the end of his statement to MPs the Northern Ireland Secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew, had arranged for a motion of confidence in his plans to be put to a free vote of the whole House then, on yesterday's showing, more than 600 of the 650 MPs would have voted for it. He and the Prime Minister arrived looking grim and anxious, yet they may live not to regret this seeming setback.

Sir Patrick spoke more quietly than we had ever heard. His was a lengthy statement, but really turned upon only two assertions. He dwelt repeatedly on these.

The first was that the phrases from a draft docu-

ment leaked to *The Times* had no real status, because no text had yet been agreed. Few challenged this, but it was his second assertion which so united MPs: what Sir Patrick called the "triple lock" guarantee.

Whatever text emerged, he said, could not survive without the assent of "parties, people and Parliament"; and so there would have to be a referendum in Northern Ireland. Backbenchers liked the phrase "triple lock", began to repeat it, and noted it for constituency speeches.

But it was not in his statement itself, though it was warmly received, but in the dogs that did and the dogs that did not bark afterwards, that his command of the House became clear.

It was one of those occasions when the time-honoured "but" after "naturally I wish the minister well" just

never came. Had the Unionists hoped that Labour might be tempted, the Opposition's spokesman, Mo Mowlam, ended such hopes. Ms Mowlam was brief, clear and unhesitant in her support for the Government's strategy. We waited for the "but". There was none. MPs knew Labour took a bipartisan view, but in the terms in which she expressed it, Mowlam went the extra mile. For the nationalist parties — a "but" of a group if ever there was one — the SNP's Margaret Ewing sounded lost without a reservation to ex-

press. And it must have gone right against the instincts of Alan Beith not to express both views then come down, for the Liberal Democrats, somewhere between them: but he was wholeheartedly for Mayhew. The SDLP, who often like to demonstrate that they are nobody's poodles, wagged their tails for Sir Patrick.

What of the Tories? One would have expected Nicholas Scott, once a Northern Ireland minister, to support Mayhew, but the warmth of the cheer which greeted him was unusual. One looked to the usual suspects at the more orange and of the blue. Continued on page 2, col 7

## Red alerts on rivers as three die in floods

By Richard Duce

TORRENTIAL rain brought death and destruction to parts of England yesterday as statistics confirmed last month to be the wettest January for almost 50 years.

In Pool, West Yorkshire, Clifford Greenwood, 67, was

found dead at his home after trying to wade through the floods. He had earlier declined a police request to leave. Near Hartley Wintney, Hampshire, Janet Hartley, 51, and her mother, Marjorie King, 78, were killed in a head-on collision with another car on a very wet stretch of road. Mrs Hartley's daughter Josephine, 23, had her legs broken.

Last night 12 rivers were on red flood alert throughout England. More than 300 properties were flooded, but the London Weather Centre said the worst was over.

In Boroughbridge, North Yorkshire, 20 soldiers from 9 Regiment Air Corps helped to rescue people from flooded homes as the Ure threatened to burst its banks. Nearby Dunsford was cut off. Riverside homes in Elmore, Gloucestershire, were inundated when the biggest Severn tide of the year swept upriver. Villagers in Wargrave, Berkshire, insisting on their right to walk along the line when their gardens are flooded by the Thames, stopped trains for five hours because drivers said they were a safety risk.

The Thames Barrier was closed to prevent the tide swelling the river. The Dutch authorities extended their emergency zone to the north of the River Waal.

Dutch emergency, page 15  
Forecast, page 24



Agutter: 12 years jail

## Nightshade poisoner

Paul Agutter, a biochemistry lecturer at Napier University in Edinburgh, was jailed for 12 years for attempting to murder his wife by poisoning her gin and tonic. He was also found guilty by a majority verdict at the High Court in Edinburgh of endangering the lives of seven other people by adding atropine, a derivative of deadly nightshade, to supermarket tonic water. Page 5

## Dorrell fails screen test

Stephen Dorrell, the Heritage Secretary, was asked yesterday at a parliamentary select committee on the state of the film industry, what was the last film he saw? "I simply don't remember," he replied. Page 4

## Veal protester killed as she leaps at lorry

By Michael Hornsby, Agriculture Correspondent

AN ANIMAL rights protester was killed yesterday when she fell under the wheels of a lorry delivering calves to Coventry airport for export to the Continent.

The woman, who has not been named but came from the Coventry area, was injured when she slipped into the path of the slow-moving lorry after leaping at the cab, police said. She died in hospital. Three other people had also attempted to climb on the lorry but were unhurt.

A line of 100 police officers was guarding the entrance to the airport, but witnesses said the woman, mother of a son aged nine, was among demonstrators who evaded their police escort and ran in front of the lorry about a quarter-of-a-mile up the road.

Gill Gates, a friend of the victim and fellow protester, fought back tears last night as she described the incident. "My friend was just behind me. I turned around for a second and my friend was on the ground. I don't know if she slipped, fell or was knocked over by the truck. Police yelled for the lorry driver to stop and it did but with the wheels right on her body."

"We had managed to get past a police line that was trying to keep us back and we were across the road trying to stop the lorry. It was crawling forward and somehow, suddenly, she was under the

wheels. This has made us even more determined to stop veal flights."

Warwickshire police said the incident had occurred at about 4.45 pm after 34 demonstrators had gathered in the road leading to the airport in the path of a lorry carrying about 100 calves.

The calves were to have been exported to Amsterdam on a cargo plane chartered by Phoenix Aviation, which specialises in animal transport. The company had leased the Boeing 737 which crashed on its approach to Coventry airport on December 21, narrowly missing a housing estate and killing the three crew and two animal handlers on board. The company resumed the flights on Tuesday after a High Court judge had refused a request by Coventry City Council, the airport's owners, permission to ban them.

John Bradshaw, for the company, said: "This is a great shock. The incident appears to have happened when protesters ran into the path of the lorry. It is uncertain at this stage whether the four flights scheduled for tomorrow will take off now."

Philip Lymbery, of Compassion in World Farming, one of the main groups campaigning against the calf trade, said: "We are deeply saddened and shocked by this death. We appeal to protesters not to risk their lives in this way."

## Ernie joins the quest for riches

By Robert Miller

ERNIE may not enjoy the national television exposure given to the National Lottery but he can still make people very rich.

Yesterday the Electronic Random Number Indicator Equipment created its first Scottish millionaire. A resident of Edinburgh, who bought the winning bond in June 1992, became the eleventh million-pound winner since the Government's savings arm increased the top prize last April. Prize money this month will top £20 million for the first time.

Last year National Savings sold £1.8 billion of bonds, more than in the previous five years added together, and November was one of its best months despite the start of the National Lottery.

Not everyone follows the fortunes of their Premium Bonds carefully. For two years, National Savings has been trying to trace a £25,000 winner. The only address given is a bank in the City. Unclaimed prizes total more than £12 million.

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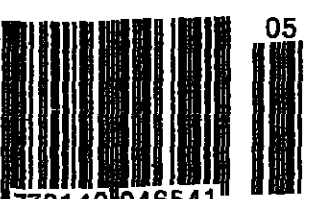
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# Furious Prime Minister summoned MPs to midnight meeting

JOHN MAJOR ordered a hurriedly arranged midnight meeting of Tory MPs to defuse the potentially explosive reaction to the leaked details of the Northern Ireland framework document. Within minutes of the Times's report arriving at Westminster late on Tuesday night, dozens of MPs were summoned urgently to the Prime Minister's Westminster office. Jeremy Hanley, the Conservative Party Chair-

man, and other senior Tories swept through the Commons chamber and corridors to tell backbenchers with a particular interest in Northern Ireland issues that Mr Major wanted to see them. The importance of the meeting was not lost on the backbenchers.

John Major called to his office colleagues most directly concerned with Ireland. There were, he told them, "black works afoot". Arthur Leathley reports

Tory colleague to be "extremely angry" on first seeing the reports. By the time that more than 60 MPs had crowded into his room behind the Speaker's chair, his mood had mellowed to one of

"frustration and determination". During a 30-minute question-and-answer session, he spoke graphically of the achievements already secured during the peace process, telling the packed room

that, by this time last year, 20 people had already died at the hands of terrorists. This year, he emphasised, nobody had been killed.

Underlining his commitment to securing lasting peace, the Prime Minister issued a stark warning that those opposing the process were engaged in "black works at the crossroads of peace".

Likening the draft document obtained by The Times

to the first chapter of an Agatha Christie thriller, he insisted that there was much more detail which needed to be understood.

Although clearly irritated by the timing of the revelations, Mr Major was said to be "calm and very clear" in setting out his objectives.

Mr Major, joined by Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, and Sir John Wheeler, the Northern Ireland minister, told

MPs that he would not allow the peace process to be derailed. As MPs pored nervously over copies of the Times story, Mr Major was given crucial support by Viscount Cranborne, leader of the Lords and a vehement supporter of the unionist cause. The peer, who resigned from Margaret Thatcher's Government over the 1985 Anglo-Irish agreement, pledged his full backing for the Prime Minister. It

was an important intervention, helping to ease the tensions which had built up as MPs recognised the danger of a possible collapse of the peace process.

As the MPs filed away from the Prime Minister's room, some were only partially reassured. "He did exactly the right thing and calmed our nerves. But it is the Ulster Unionists who need assurance more than us," said one Tory.

Government attacks 'leaks calculated to destabilise sensitive process'

## Mayhew insists unification of Ireland no closer

By OUR POLITICAL STAFF

SIR Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, yesterday told the Commons that the British and Irish governments had no plans drawn up that brought the prospect of a united Ireland closer than it had ever been since partition.

He rejected reports that the Government would propose arrangements for joint authority over the running of the affairs of Northern Ireland. He attacked reports that proposals had been drawn up that could pave the way to a united Ireland as "distorting leaks calculated to destabilise and destroy" the sensitive peace process.

And he insisted that consent was the key to reaching an agreement on a framework document aimed at forming the basis for talks between the main constitutional parties.

Sir Patrick said agreement had not yet been reached with the Irish Government on the framework document. "But consent will be the key. And the Prime Minister has made it clear that, because consent would be absent, we could not, for example, propose arrangements providing for joint authority over Northern Ireland—that is to say the British and Irish governments jointly running the affairs of Northern Ireland over the heads of its people. Nor, for the same reason, could we agree to propose any North/South body that was autonomous."

He said a body that was accountable to a Northern Ireland elected assembly was a different matter. "Such a body, empowered in that way and accountable to the assembly, making common cause North and South in areas of common interest and mutual benefit, might well get consent."

Sir Patrick reassured the Unionists that the Govern-

ment would also reject proposals that left the Irish territorial claim to Northern Ireland in place. He emphasised: "These are matters of the greatest sensitivity and difficulty, even danger, in an area where fears and suspicions very understandably abound on all sides. An enormous amount potentially turns on them."

Commenting on the lead story in The Times yesterday, he said: "I recognise a few phrases lifted highly selectively from a lengthy negotiating text employed in the discussions with the Irish Government but upon which the governments have not agreed."

**LONDON**

I do not, however, recognise the conclusions that the author draws from them.

"For example, the story leads with the assertion that the British and Irish governments have drawn up a document that brings the prospect of a united Ireland closer than it has been at any time since partition in 1920. That is simply not true."

"What is true is that the future of Northern Ireland is declared by both governments in the Downing Street Declaration, to lie in the hand of the people who live there. That is where it rests and will stay."

To Tory cheerers, Sir Patrick said: "I must not be drawn into a premature publication of a document in these negotiations, which has not been agreed by the governments, in reaction to distorting leaks calculated to destabilise and destroy this immensely sensitive process. The process is too important for the people of Northern Ireland to be further damaged in that way."

"When, and only when, an entire package of proposals is published could parties,

people and Parliament judge its true worth."

He said the framework document, if it could be agreed, would be offered "not as some blueprint to be imposed" but for the political parties to examine. "They could accept it, they could reject it, they could amend it."

Any agreement reached by the parties must be put to the people in a referendum for them to show if they agreed or not. "That is the triple lock—parties, people, Parliament—the triple lock against imposition upon the people of Northern Ireland that the Prime Minister has so often spoken about."

Later, in response to MPs' questions, Sir Patrick said: "There must be no derailment of the peace process. This offers to the people of Northern Ireland the best prospect of a permanent ending of violence, of the instability that has plagued them for generations, and it has got to be preserved. And it has got to be preserved on the basis of all proper principles being observed, and I am aware of no party in this House or elsewhere that wishes to see that process derailed."

"Selective leaking of documents in that process is doubtless calculated to secure its derailment and it is incumbent on each and every one of us to see that that strategem does not succeed."

Sir Patrick emphasised that consent was "the very foundation of everything we are seeking to achieve, and any other foundation would be a foundation of sand". He urged MPs to wait until a final version of the document was agreed: "Then you will be able to see its true balance and intention."

Paul Bew, page 18  
Leading article, page 19



Sir Patrick: "I recognise a few phrases lifted highly selectively"

## Parties join forces to support peace process

By ALICE THOMPSON AND JAMES LANDALE

PARTY politics were put aside yesterday as MPs from all sides of the House pledged support for the Government's strategy for peace in Northern Ireland, with the only dissenting voices coming from the Unionist benches.

In the exchanges that followed Sir Patrick Mayhew's statement to the House yesterday, Marjorie Mowlam, the Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, said Labour had supported the Government's efforts throughout the peace process. "A process which might at times seem fragile, but which still offers the best hope for a generation for the people of Northern Ireland."

She added: "Any help we can give to continue that process honourably and sensibly, we will. There is always a risk when there is selective leaking of any document that the impression given by the way it is leaked is sometimes far worse than the actual contents. I would therefore urge all parties to wait and to study what is actually being proposed, rather than selective interpretations of it."

Ms Mowlam told Sir Patrick: "For this process to carry on succeeding, we all need to be open and honest in our dealings, and make sure the language you use and the commitments you make are the same to all parties. The goodwill on all sides must also be matched by good faith."

She added: "You must redouble your efforts with Dublin to produce a framework document as soon as possible in a way that will guarantee that no party nor any Member on your own backbenches will be allowed

a veto on what is to be discussed."

"Any framework must respond fairly to both traditions in Northern Ireland and the consent of the majority must be the guarantee of a balanced constitutional settlement."

James Moynihan, the Ulster Unionist leader, said he had been told on December 1 that a framework document

made irrelevant the post-publication consultations which we were promised, and have thereby wrecked the framework concept."

He called for discussions with representatives of the four main constitutional parties on how best to "clear away the debris, and then start building on structures based on democratic principles."

The Rev Ian Paisley, the Democratic Unionist leader, said the contents of the leaked document had not been challenged, just the interpretation of them.

He told Sir Patrick: "This document is an insult to the majority of people of Northern Ireland. You cannot expect any self-respecting Unionist to sit down at a table if that is going to be on the agenda. That is the price you are paying to get a deal with Gerry Adams and the IRA and Dublin."

The Rev William McCrea, DUP MP for Mid-Ulster, said: "Last week the prime minister of the Irish Republic met a representative of murderers, Gerry Adams, and we were told that they discussed matters relating to the framework document and that other matters had been told to the SDLP."

"Unionists once again have to await the final issuing of the document before getting any knowledge of its contents. It reeks of the Anglo-Irish Agreement."

Alan Beith, for the Liberal Democrats, said: "Selective leaks are usually designed to induce some kind of reaction... Despite its precarious parliamentary arithmetic, this Government has the support of a very substantial majority of MPs on this."



Mowlam: "We will give all help we can"

## 'You have nothing to fear'

Continued from page 1  
of Parliament would be required. "That is the triple lock—parties, people, Parliament—the triple lock against imposition upon the people of Northern Ireland that the Prime Minister has so often spoken about."

Mr Major's assurances last night seemed unlikely to satisfy Unionist politicians but he clearly hoped to appeal over their heads to the people. The Unionists are vital to the Government in its precarious parliamentary state: without

their help it lost the Commons vote on VAT on domestic fuel.

Ministers doubt whether the Unionists would want to bring down the Government and possibly allow in a Labour administration that would be less sympathetic to their position. But Mr Moynihan has clearly been placed in a difficult position, with some of his more hawkish colleagues such as Mr Trimble prepared to consider forcing an election.

The Unionist leader said a series of leaks had effectively undermined the original in-

tervention of publishing the document for consultation.

The Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionists, said: "This document is an insult to the majority of people of Northern Ireland."

Nationalists were equally angry at what they saw as an attempt to wreck the peace process. Seamus Mallon, deputy leader of the mainly Catholic SDLP, said the leak was part of a "deadly game". He added: "What we are talking about is keeping people alive in Northern Ireland."

## Bruton vows to discover who leaked paper

By NICHOLAS WATT

JOHN BRUTON, the Irish Prime Minister, said yesterday that the disclosures in The Times about the forthcoming Anglo-Irish framework document could damage "the entire process towards peace and reconciliation".

The Taoiseach made an early appearance in the Irish Parliament yesterday to stress that the report gave a misleading impression of the document. He was supported by opposition politicians who condemned the leak as unhelpful.

Dublin's anger at the report was underlined last night when Dick Spring, the Deputy Prime Minister, issued a strongly worded statement, accusing The Times of making "a selective and tendentious use of excerpts from work in progress between the British and Irish Governments".

Mr Bruton said the report should be treated with scepticism because it was designed to "upset one particular side". He added: "It is an attempt at news management for a purpose that is difficult to define or divine."

The Taoiseach said the report was based on selected leaks, which were damaging. He told the Dail: "Given that it is intended to be a balanced framework document, any selective leaking of certain pieces of that document is inherently wrong and misleading. Other phrases that might balance the ones that are released are not released, and therefore the impression that is created is an unbalanced one."

Mr Bruton added that the document aimed to achieve agreement among all parties. He said: "It is not our intention to impose in any way without ample opportunities for agreement being reached between the parties concerned."

Ultimately there is provision for the people to have their own say in a referendum on the matter."

Mr Bruton told deputies that he had no evidence that the leak had come from an

Irish source. But he pledged to do everything to trace the source of the leak "wherever it may be".

The Taoiseach's comments were followed by Mr Spring's statement. The Deputy Prime Minister, who has been co-ordinating Dublin's negotiations with Britain over the framework document, said there was a "blatant political agenda" behind the report in The Times, which was designed to alarm Unionists.

He added: "It is very disquieting that the confidentiality agreed between the governments has been breached. I am convinced that the leak could not have come from any Irish source and we will be in consultation with the British Government to seek to establish how it occurred."

Mr Spring emphasised that the framework document was not a blueprint to be imposed on Northern Ireland, but was designed as an aid to negotiation. He said: "The document is not about joint authority and had the article not ignored

**DUBLIN**

important features that would have been clear. For example the document contains clear and express commitments about the democratic accountability of a North-South body to new institutions in Northern Ireland."

Mr Spring pledged that the two Governments would not be deflected from their work. "I appeal to all sides to reserve judgment until the completed document is published and not to react to an article which is clearly inspired by partisan motive."

There was bipartisan support in Dublin for the Government's criticisms of the report. Ray Burke, Fianna Fail's foreign affairs spokesman, said that the report had raised unnecessary fears. Mr Burke, who met Unionists in Belfast last Monday, said that selective leaks were unhelpful.

## Loneliness exposed

Continued from page 1  
spectrum for some rumble of rebellion, but there was none. Some notable dogs remained confined to kennels.

Curious. For this sketch-writer, though, there was something stranger still. From the Unionist stables, Ian Paisley brayed, the Rev William McCrea whinnied, Jim Moynihan fretted, John D. Taylor kicked and David

Trimble snorted, but at the fence presented by Mayhew's "triple lock" guarantee, every one of them shied.

None seemed comforted by the promise of a test of opinion. Were a British Government ever to appeal over the Unionists' heads to a wider public here or in Ulster, the decision might be traced to yesterday's demonstration of the Commons mood.

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Leadership challenge likely as anger grows within UUP over handling of negotiations

# Molyneaux under fire for 'inner-track' approach

By NICHOLAS WATT  
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

JAMES MOLYNEAUX faces a challenge to his leadership of the Ulster Unionists as anger grows within the party over his handling of recent political developments in Northern Ireland.

Leading Unionists, who

## THE UNIONISTS

condemned the leaked proposals for Northern Ireland as a betrayal, lined up for a succession of radio and television interviews yesterday that left few commentators in doubt that they were jostling for the succession to Mr Molyneaux.

Some party members fear that their leader's much vaunted "inner track" approach, which involves briefings from John Major, has failed to prevent the unacceptable proposal of a power-sharing North-South executive body being drawn up to decide the future of the Province. Mr Molyneaux, 74, who has led the UUP since 1979, is regarded as the elder statesman of Unionism. His quiet and unassuming manner contrasts with Ian Paisley's thunderous tones.

Critics point to Mr Molyneaux's reassurances in the run-up to the Anglo-Irish Agreement of 1985, which turned out to be the most far-



Contenders: David Trimble, one of the party's most effective MPs, and John Taylor, political veteran

reaching Anglo-Irish initiative since the partition of Ireland in 1920. Mr Molyneaux was forced into an uncomfortable alliance with Mr Paisley to protest against the agreement.

Their alliance petered out during the Brooke/Mayhew inter-party talks of 1990-92. Since then Mr Paisley, the leader of the Democratic Unionists, has made capital out of the Government's plans for Northern Ireland, which he has consistently condemned as the slippery slope to a united Ireland. Members of the UUP have expressed concern that Mr Paisley's

warnings of a sell-out have out-foxed their party.

Mr Molyneaux yesterday laid the blame for the proposals in the draft framework document at the feet of British and Irish officials who have "strung along" the Government. However, critics in his party will ask why Mr Molyneaux did not fight off the proposals at an earlier date.

There are four front-runners to succeed Mr Molyneaux if he relinquishes the leadership of the UUP. They are: David Trimble, MP for Upper Bann, John Taylor, MP for Strangford — who

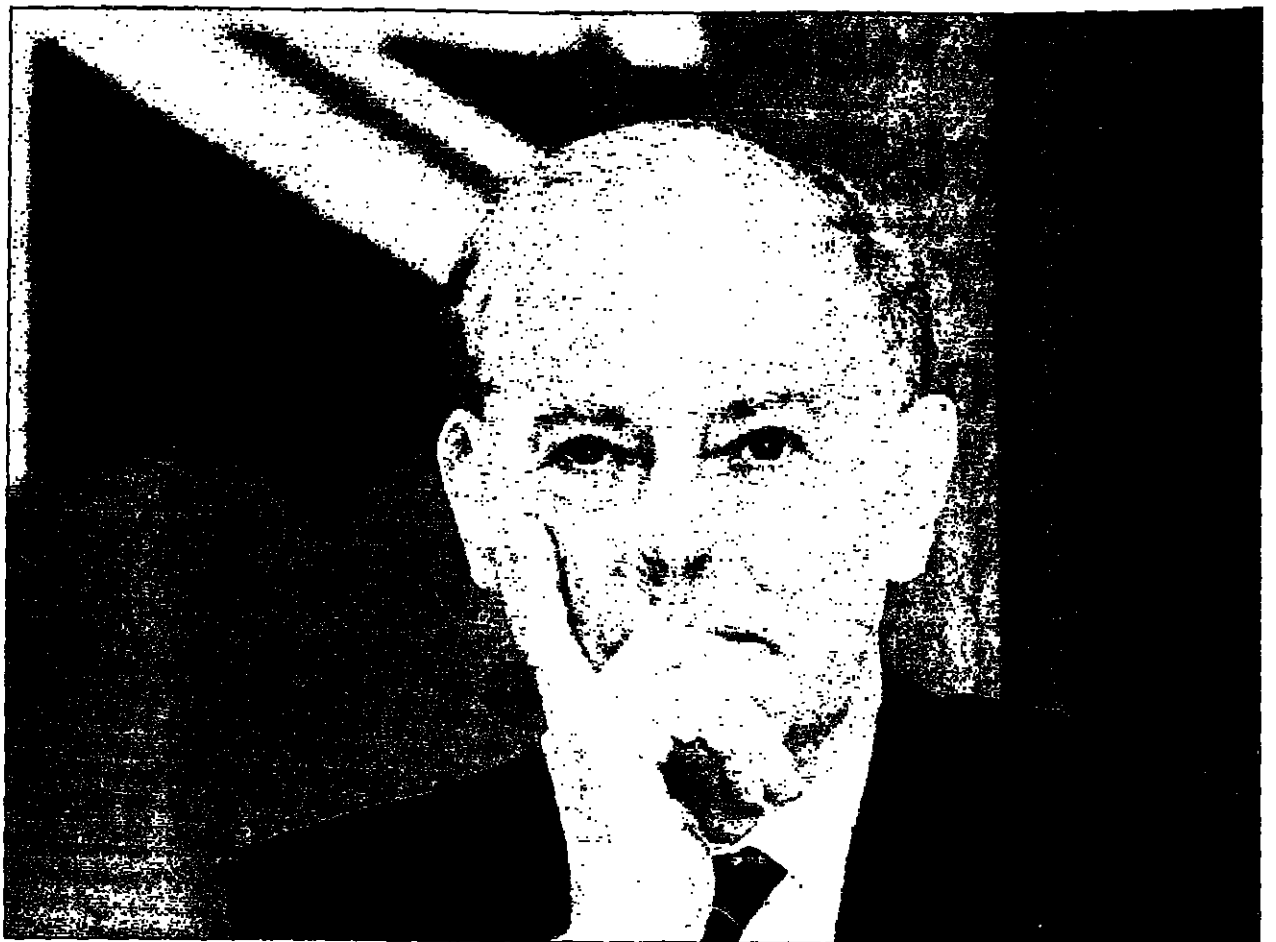
have both led the party's campaign against the framework document in recent weeks — Willie Ross, MP for Londonderry East, and Ken Maginnis, MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone.

Mr Trimble, 50, the UUP's legal affairs spokesman, is one of his party's most effective and articulate MPs. In a series of radio and television interviews yesterday he was at the forefront of his party's condemnation of the proposals for Northern Ireland disclosed in *The Times*.

He said: "John Major knows that we reject all-Ireland institutions with significant government powers and a default mechanism that allows the Irish Government to dictate to a Northern Ireland assembly. We would regard these as a breach of Mr Major's undertaking. If he does so he can no longer expect our support."

Mr Trimble, a former law lecturer at Queen's University, Belfast, has hurried the Government on a range of issues since he won his seat in a 1990 by-election. He started his political career as a member of the Convention for the Vanguard Unionist Progressive Party. When the party abandoned its political role in 1978, Mr Trimble joined the UUP.

Mr Taylor, 57, his party's European MEP from 1979 to 1989, is implacably opposed to the Government's plans for



James Molyneaux, leader of the UUP since 1979 and regarded as the elder statesman of Unionism

Northern Ireland. He warned yesterday that his party might withdraw its support for the Government.

The MP is one of Northern Ireland's political veterans. He was parliamentary secretary at home Affairs in 1969-70 before direct rule was imposed. In 1972 the Official IRA tried to assassinate Mr Taylor when gunmen opened fire on him in Armagh City. Despite

his trenchant criticisms of the Government yesterday Mr Taylor can be one of his party's more conciliatory members. He was the first member of his party to say after the IRA ceasefire that the violence could be over, and he is thought to be one of the few Ulster Unionists who could envisage sitting down with Sinn Féin.

Mr Ross, 58, the UUP's

Chief Whip and an MP since 1974, is quietly spoken and has been compared to Mr Molyneaux, who holds him in high regard. He was sceptical about the 1993 Downing Street Declaration, and wondered whether the Irish Government's was sincere in its commitment to the principle of accepting Unionist consent.

Mr Maginnis, the UUP's security spokesman, has been

one of his party's most prominent MPs since the IRA ceasefire. Amid the excitement of the truce he has consistently warned that the IRA may end it if the leadership believes the truce is failing to win concessions. The MP, who debated with Gerry Adams on CNN last year, is seen as an outsider in the leadership stakes, because sections of the party regard him as too liberal.

## Ulstermen marked by mythology of betrayal

By PETER RIDDELL

THE Ulster Unionists have always had a single-minded approach to Westminster politics. Their tactics are determined first, last and always by what they believe will preserve the Unionist position in Northern Ireland. That was why they broke with the Conservative Party in 1972, and it has explained their attitude to minority governments since then, whether Labour in the late 1970s or the Tories now. That is both a reassurance and a warning for any Government. However vital the support of the Unionists may be in the short term to sustain a Commons majority, it is conditional and thus unstable in the long term.

The mythology of betrayal is deeply ingrained. There remains a deep suspicion of the motives of any British Government. The official Unionists, as distinct from Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionists, will back a government that supports their aims. Beyond that they do not seek to intervene in the ordinary party battles. The Unionists have usually backed the existing administration on confidence votes and big issues — as long as its policies on Northern Ireland do not threaten Unionist aims. On other controversial matters that concern only the mainland, the Unionists have often abstained. Yet when the tide moves against the Gov-

ernment of the day, as it did against Labour in March 1979, they shift and vote with the Opposition.

James Molyneaux, their shrewdest and longest-serving leader, has been the prime upholder of this approach. He believes it gives his party access and influence, and so it has. Hence the Unionists have propped up this Government on European issues when their instincts are anti-European. The support of the nine Unionist MPs for the Gov-



ernment has exactly compensated for the loss of the nine votes of the "whipless" Tory Euro-rebels. Yet the views of the two groups are close on Europe and the future of the Union. If they allied, the Government would really be in trouble.

Two weeks ago, Mr Molyneaux and William Ross, the party's whip, urged their colleagues to vote with the Government on fisheries policy in view of their longer-term understandings with John Major reached in July 1993 at the height of the crisis over the Maastricht Bill. But other Unionist MPs, notably John Taylor and David Trimble, were alarmed about the rumoured contents of the framework document. After two meetings on the night of

the vote, the party split: six backed the Government, which had a majority of only nine, and three abstained.

This divide reflected both rivalries within the Unionist party about the succession to Mr Molyneaux, now aged 74, and the continued need for the MPs to look over their shoulders at the challenge of the Democratic Unionists. Mr Paisley is there, as he has been for a generation, to argue that he is the one true voice to defend the interests of Ulster.

The influence of the Unionists is directly related to the party balance in the Commons. When the Tories had an overall majority of more than 140 in the mid 1980s, they could afford to ignore Unionist protests over the Anglo-Irish agreement of 1985, as Margaret Thatcher then did. The historic ties between the Tory party and the Unionists are decreasing: the number of Tory MPs with a close interest in Northern Ireland is small.

Most Tory MPs admire Mr Major's boldness and determination in launching the initiative and hope that he will succeed. They are not too concerned about the details provided there are some guarantees for the Unionists and the outcome is not seen as a victory for Gerry Adams and the IRA. Otherwise, it is largely a matter of parliamentary arithmetic.

## 'Ill-timed story was harmful'

By NICHOLAS WATT

John Hume, leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP), said yesterday that speculation on the forthcoming Anglo-Irish framework document was "irresponsible". He called on everybody to "shut up", and accused *The Times* of using provocative language in its front page report. The MP for Foyle said he feared disclosures would unsettle the peace

## SDLP

process. "At this sensitive time speculation is not only wrong, it is irresponsible. The time has come, because of the high sensitivity of our present situation, for everybody to shut up until we get to the table," he said.

Mr Hume added that Matthew d'Ancona, Assistant Editor of *The Times*, who wrote yesterday's report, had "very strong Unionist views". Mr d'Ancona said that he had written commentary articles from a Unionist perspective, but added that his report in yesterday's paper was written as a straight news story.

SATURDAY IN THE TIMES



## Brother in law

JOHNNIE COCHRAN, THE MAN WHO WOULD SAVE O.J. SIMPSON

IN THE

## MAGAZINE

WIN A WEEKEND TRIP FOR TWO TO THE PERFORMANCE MOTOR SHOW

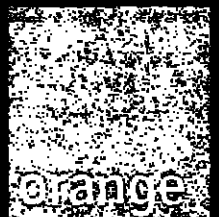
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Heritage Secretary admits he cannot remember name of last film he saw

## MPs voice doubts on Dorrell's zeal for arts

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE National Heritage Secretary, who has been criticised for an apparent lack of interest in his brief, was posed with a difficult question as he was about to give evidence to a parliamentary select committee on the state of the British film industry.

What was the last film he saw? "I simply don't remember," Stephen Dorrell answered, with a calmness displayed only by politicians in such situations. He admitted he had pondered that very question in the bath that morning. But, no, he simply had been unable to come up with anything.

On taking his seat before the panel of nine MPs, Mr Dorrell found himself repeatedly asked to demonstrate his passion for, or at the very least, commitment to the arts. Sir John Gort said that the British film industry needed a boost of confidence, words of encouragement from a minister devoted to their cause.

The Tory MP offered the chance "to lay to rest any doubts about your commitment and enthusiasm". Last November, *The Times* discovered that Mr Dorrell had not paid a formal visit to any of the four great national companies, who between them receive some £50 million in public subsidy through his department.

Sir John added: "You should be the sort of politician who, rather than go into the division lobbies at 10pm, should say, 'I'm terribly sorry I'm at a first night, I'm at the business end of my job.'" Mr Dorrell has cited Oliver Cromwell as a hero, who prompted Gerald Kaufman, chairman of the committee, to comment that Cromwell "smashed works of art in an unparalleled way".

Sir John suggested that Mr Dorrell was "trying to wriggle away from giving leadership"

and that people were uneasy about his attitude towards the film industry. "There is the feeling you are a gamekeeper from the Treasury who is remaining a gamekeeper — not turning poacher. Your answers suggest you are still a gamekeeper, not sufficiently orientated to be an impresario," he said.

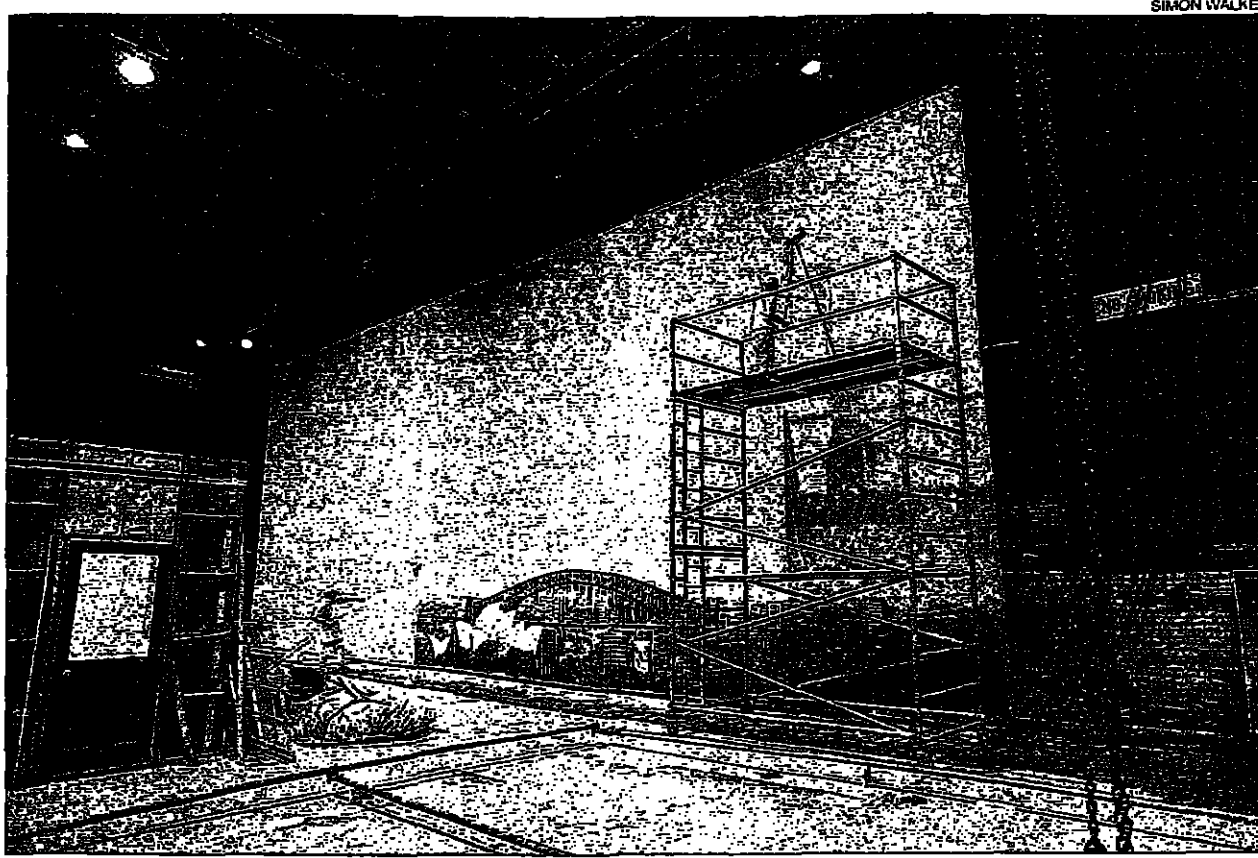
Later he added: "You are the chairman of a series of quangos whereas you should be a conductor in front of the orchestra." Mr Dorrell (who lists aviation in *Who's Who* under recreations) answered: "I have never pretended to be a would-be conductor, my role is to create the circumstances where there can be more great works of art." He said he wanted "to create the opportunities for exciting artistic creation" without presenting a bill to the taxpayer.

That led to the subject of tax incentives. The committee members picked up on the passionate arguments of British film-makers and on the lessons learnt on fact-finding trips to Hollywood and Ireland. Mr Kaufman pointed out that France has a tax on cinema seats from which 11 per cent is channelled back into film production.

Mr Dorrell was asked why Britain could not be inspired by such examples. He explained that while the review of film policy continued, he would not commit himself to a final statement and that, anyway, tax was the responsibility of the Chancellor. He did, though, note that film was just one area of British industry that had long argued for tax breaks.

Mr Dorrell will formally respond within two months of the committee publishing its report, expected at the end of the month.

Arts, pages 37-39



Shepperton Studios in Chertsey, Surrey, where some of Britain's most successful films have been produced

## Director brothers complete £12m deal to secure future of Shepperton

BY EMMA WILKINS

RIDLEY SCOTT and his brother Tony, two of the most successful British film directors in Hollywood, bought Shepperton Studios yesterday in a £12 million deal designed to secure the future of the British film industry.

Ridley Scott, whose films include *Alien* and *Blade Runner*, and his brother, who directed *Beverly Hills Cop II* and *Top Gun*, hope to use personal contacts to attract American feature films to the 26-acre site near Chertsey, Surrey. They will spend a further £10 million over five years upgrading facilities at Shepperton, which, with Pinewood Studios in Buckingham, are the only British studios suitable for major films.

More than 600 feature films have been made at Shepperton since it opened in 1932. Recent productions include *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, the most successful British film ever, and *Judge Dredd*, starring Sylvester Stallone, which has not yet been released in Britain. The studio makes a profit of about £1.75 million a year.



Tony Scott, left, and his brother Ridley, who hope to attract more Hollywood film-makers to Britain



Its heyday was in the 1950s and 60s, with films such as *The Dambusters* and *The Guns of Navarone*, but by the mid 1970s Shepperton was losing an estimated £500,000 a year. In 1974 an auction of props to raise money included a rubber triffid from *The Day of the Triffids*, which fetched £55, and a flying saucer used by Peter Cushing in *Dr Who*.

The deal was welcomed yesterday by the British Film Commission, which is funded by the Government to attract overseas film-makers to Britain. Andrew Patrick, chief executive, said yesterday:

"The message for the whole international film industry is that Britain is finally back on track."

The Scotts began their film careers in advertising. Ridley occasionally returns to his roots with commercials for Guinness, the drinks company, and the nostalgic Hovis bread advertisement. They have invested £15 million in Shepperton. The major investor is a venture capital company, which has contributed £7 million. Marek Gumieny, a director of Candover Partners, said: "The major attraction was the involvement of Ridley and Tony Scott. They are probably two of the world's most successful film directors and very good businessmen as well." The present management team will remain.

Ridley Scott, 56, whose early work as a director included episodes of *Z Cars*, will announce further details of his plans later this month. He hopes to attract more British investment in home-produced films.

## Ministers who defy advisers lose right to secrecy

BY NIGEL WILLIAMSON, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

THE veil of secrecy on serious disagreements between ministers and their officials over the expenditure of public money is to be lifted.

In a move that could prevent a repetition of the Pergau Dam affair, Lord Nolan's inquiry into standards in public life was told yesterday that in future when a government minister takes a decision involving public expenditure against the advice of his senior civil servants, a copy of the "note of dissent" would automatically be sent to the Public Accounts Committee, the Parliamentary overseer of how public money is spent. The move was immediately hailed by some as Lord Nolan's first success.

In 1991, Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, ignored the advice of Sir Tim Lankester, permanent secretary at the Overseas Development Administration, that the Pergau Dam project was "a very bad buy" and "an abuse of the aid budget". The decision was later investigated and condemned by the National Audit Office in a report published in October 1993. Had the new rules been in operation at the time of the original decision, Sir Tim's objections would have come to light immediately and the deal, later ruled illegal by the High Court, could have been halted.

Robert Sheldon, chairman of the PAC, told Lord Nolan's committee that he had heard of the decision to inform the PAC of similar disagreements in a letter from the Treasury "in the last few days". The timing of the decision, immediately before Mr Sheldon was due to give evidence to the inquiry, was seen as significant. "It is a considerable victory. We have been asking for this for a long time, and particularly since the Pergau Dam affair," Mr Sheldon said. Mr Hurd conceded that the Pergau decision had been wrong four weeks before John Major announced the setting up of the Nolan committee.

Earlier Lord Nolan's committee heard from Liz Symons, the general secretary of the First Division Association, that senior civil servants were increasingly being asked by ministers to act outside accepted guidelines. She also said that the FSA had evidence from senior civil servants whose careers had been damaged by giving ministers "unwelcome" advice.

Ms Symons urged the establishment of a code of ethics that would apply to ministers, MPs and civil servants. At present, while senior civil servants have to seek permission to take up sensitive posts within two years of leaving the service, no such restrictions apply to MPs. In written evidence to the Council of Civil Service Unions suggested that an independent body, possibly the Civil Service Commissioners, should scrutinise the subsequent employment of former ministers and up to 3,500 top civil servants.

Ms Symons said that the appointment this week of Robert Creighton, private secretary to Virginia Bottomley, as chief executive of the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children, was not approved by Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary, or the Business Appointments Committee, which examines the propriety of jobs taken by former public servants.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Soldiers' apology 'was not admission'

Lawyers for three soldiers, charged with killing a Danish woman in Cyprus, demanded an inquiry after the men apologised to her family. Riflemen Justin Fowler, 27, Alan Ford, 26, and Jeff Pernell, 23, made the apology to a journalist who was wrongly allowed into their prison in Nicosia. The soldiers said their apology for Louise Jensen's death did not mean they were admitting guilt to the charges of manslaughter, abduction and conspiracy to rape.

### Wrong lane crash

Kevin Hicks and William McClure, who died in a car crash after travelling the wrong way along the A38 in Devon for 12 miles, had been drinking and taking drugs, an inquest in Torquay was told. The case was adjourned.

### Police burgled

Several bags of heroin and a stun gun have been stolen from the police station at Maidenhead, Berkshire, when thieves broke into a store containing exhibits for forthcoming trials. Police refused to comment.

### Penalty saved

A nude figurine, removed from the lounge of Elop Grange, a country house hotel outside Manchester, after a stay by three Liverpool Football Club players, has been returned after a discreet complaint to the club.

### Parachute death

A civilian parachutist fell 12,000ft to his death when his canopy failed to open when he was on a jump with the Royal Marines parachute team in California. Ian King, 35, worked for the Irvin GB parachute company.

### Man 'killed wife'

Geoffrey Mace, the publisher of *Pet Dogs* magazine, strangled his wife Paula and gassed himself in their car because his wife was having an affair, an inquest in Huddersfield was told. The inquest was adjourned.

### Street thanked

Organisers of an appeal for St David's Hospice in Newport, Gwent, who were handed a £100,000 cheque by a couple who would only say they lived in Aberthaw Road are to thank everyone who lives in the street.

### Abductor jailed

Warwick Spinks, 30, of Hastings, who drugged a boy of 14 and sold him to a homosexual brothel in Amsterdam, was jailed for seven years by Lewes Crown Court for abduction, taking indecent photographs and buggery.

### Baby denied aid

Benjamin Jones, a five-week-old boy who was discharged from hospital with a hypodermic needle inside him, has been refused legal aid to pursue a claim for negligence. The Legal Aid Board has announced.

### £42m missing

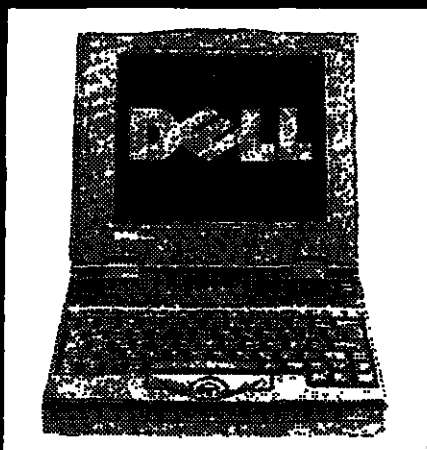
More than £42 million in loose change disappeared from circulation in Britain last year, according to a Royal Mint survey. The 450 million lost coins included 210 million 1p pieces and 25 million 10p coins.

### CORRECTIONS

In an article (January 31) Nigella Lawson incorrectly reported that childminder Mrs Anne Davis had been sacked by Sutton (Surrey) social services for snacking a child, when in fact she had been deregistered, a decision subsequently reversed after a successful challenge in the courts. A reference in an article by Peter Millar yesterday to wartime Rotterdam should have made clear that the city was destroyed by the German air force.

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## BBC woman fails to win job back

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A SENIOR BBC costume designer, unfairly sacked after accusing colleagues and managers of corruption, yesterday lost her application to an industrial tribunal to order the BBC to take her back.

Judith Allen, 50, left the tribunal hearing in tears after the chairman, John Warren, announced that instead she would get the maximum compensation of £14,800. She said: "I have just lost my home and I will be bankrupt on February 3. I have been on income support and unfairly dismissed or not. I am at this moment homeless, bankrupt and penniless."

Miss Allen, who worked on series including *EastEnders* and *Last of the Summer Wine*, was dismissed in 1992 after claiming that some colleagues and managers were hiring out BBC costumes and props privately and pocketing the cash.

After hearings at the tribunal in Croydon, south London,

last July and August, she was told she had won her claim for unfair dismissal. Yesterday's hearing was to decide whether the BBC should be ordered to take her back.

The BBC maintained it would be "impracticable", partly because of cutbacks in the costume department. Jill Sharrow, head of make-up and costume design at the BBC, said several members of staff had expressed distress at the prospect of her return. "She seemed to engender an atmosphere of fear and mistrust throughout the department," she said.

After the hearing Miss Allen said she would appeal. "The BBC has entirely wrecked not just my life but the lives of my entire family and they have spent a great deal of money doing it." She said she had lost her £35,000-a-year salary and her house in Great Milton, Oxfordshire, was about to be repossessed.

## Businessman wins appeal over Asil Nadir bail cash

BY ROBIN BARNWELL

A TURKISH Cypriot businessman is not obliged to pay £650,000 of a £1 million bail surety he lodged for the fugitive businessman Asil Nadir, the Court of Appeal ruled yesterday.

Ramadan Guney, the millionaire former friend of Mr Nadir, head of the collapsed Polly Peck empire who jumped £25 million bail in 1992, faced two years in jail if the ruling had gone against him. The Serious Fraud Office said it would appeal.

Mr Guney, who said he had not been in contact with Mr Nadir since his flight to northern Cyprus, welcomed the judgement: "Justice has been done. If the decision had gone against me it would not have ruined me. They would have put me in jail."

An SFO spokesman emphasised that the case was about a



Guney: faced jail if he had lost case

technical point and noted that the SFO would await the outcome of the appeal in the Lords. In a statement, the SFO said: "Asil Nadir remains a fugitive from justice. He is still wanted and a warrant is outstanding for his arrest."

The two-to-one judgment, which overruled two earlier rulings by the divisional and High Courts, rested on whether Mr Nadir could be considered to have surrendered his bail on the opening of his trial in June 1992. Although Sir Thomas Bingham, the Master of the Rolls, agreed with the High Court that Mr Guney must forfeit his money, Lord Justice Mann and Lord Justice Peter Gibson held that Mr Guney's surety came to an end when Mr Nadir subjected himself to the conditions of the court, which amounted to a surrender of bail.

In such circumstances the judge should have renewed Mr Guney's recognisance to ensure that his obligations as a surety continued. Because of the controversial nature of the judgment, Sir Thomas Bingham gave leave to the Serious Fraud Office to make an appeal to the House of Lords.

150/11/95



Tonic water poisoner 'hatched evil plot'

# Scientist who tried to murder his wife jailed for 12 years

By Gillian Bowditch

AN internationally-renowned scientist was jailed for 12 years at the High Court in Edinburgh yesterday for attempting to murder his wife by poisoning her gin and tonic.

Paul Agutter, a biochemistry lecturer at Napier University in Edinburgh, was also found guilty by a majority verdict of endangering the lives of seven other people by adding atropine, a derivative of deadly nightshade, to supermarket tonic water.

Agutter, 48, of Kilduff Lodge, Athelstaneford, Lothian, gave his wife of 18 years a potentially lethal dose of the drug in the gin and tonic. He then tried to cover his tracks by spiking bottles of Safeway tonic water with atropine and leaving them on the shelves of a supermarket in Edinburgh, to make his wife appear as a random victim of the tonic water poisoner.

Sentencing Agutter, Lord Morison said: "This was an evil and cunningly devised crime, not only designed to bring about the death of your wife but cause great alarm, danger and injury to the public."

The court heard that it could have been the perfect murder. Atropine kills its victims but is quickly expelled from the body, leaving practically no trace. It is a "non-irritant poison", leaving no marks on the internal organs. Even the most experienced pathologist would be likely to miss it while carrying out a post mortem.

The prosecution alleged that Agutter, who had an unhappy marriage, financial problems and a mistress he wanted to marry, had poured his wife Alexandria, 39, a drink on August 28 last year. She became seriously ill after drinking it.

Instead of calling an ambulance, Agutter, who had dropped out of a medical degree at Edinburgh University because he did not think he would make a good doctor, rang his GP and left a non-urgent message saying he wanted to talk about an allergic reaction. Fortunately for Mrs Agutter, a locum GP was nearby and called at the house within minutes. She discovered Mrs Agutter was seriously ill and rang for an ambulance.

When it arrived, James Rudyj, the paramedic, told Agutter he wanted to take the tonic water bottles for analysis and also asked for the remains of the drink which Mrs Agutter had been drinking.



Dr Agutter, caused great public alarm

symptoms as serious, prevented any fatalities. I don't want to live through another 24 hours like that again."

Despite strong forensic evidence linking Agutter to the spate of poisonings, neither of the two women in his life believed him to be guilty. Mrs Agutter, told friends she did not believe Agutter had it in him. She regularly visited Agutter in prison while his mistress Carole Bonsall, who has since ended the relationship with Agutter, said she still believed he was innocent.

The evidence against Agutter, who has a first class honours degree and a PhD, was all circumstantial but it was the forensic evidence which proved to be his undoing. Only Agutter, who had access to the prison at his work, could have put the extra dose of poison in his wife's drink and as his complicated private life threatened to overwhelm him, the court believed he had sufficient motive.

Analysis showed that the drink contained three times the concentration of atropine found in the tonic water bottle from which it was supposedly poured. The inference was that Agutter had topped up his wife's glass with a lethal dose of poison. Four days before Mrs Agutter fell ill, a Safeway employee saw Agutter punting bottles of tonic water hidden under his jacket back on the shelf. These were later bought by members of the public.

The poisoning incident in August last year caused widespread alarm in Edinburgh as people became ill after drinking the contaminated tonic. A string of witnesses described their symptoms after drinking the drugged tonic, to the court. Their mouths felt dry, they suffered dizziness and could not walk. They experienced hallucinations and started talking gibberish. Many were taken to hospital and several were diagnosed as suffering from alcohol abuse.

Agutter's plan to kill his wife, a former lecturer in English at Edinburgh University, backfired when the first of his other victims turned out to be the family of a consultant anaesthetist. Geoffrey Sharwood-Smith, Dr Sharwood-Smith suspected the tonic water was the source of the poison and guessed from his wife and son's symptoms that atropine might be to blame. He alerted the hospital, police and Safeway to the poisoned tonic water and his actions were praised in court by Lord Morison.

By the time Agutter's wife arrived at hospital several days later, alarm bells had started to ring and the police moved quickly. Initially they did not suspect Agutter who told the media at the time: "Probably only the fact that myself and Dr Smith were in a position to recognise the



Sir Iain Vallance, who wrote to the BMA to apologise, with Elizabeth, his wife

## Doctors challenge BT chief's remark on job stress

By Andrew Pierce

JUNIOR doctors yesterday challenged Sir Iain Vallance, the chairman of British Telecom, to swap jobs for a week to see who had the most punishing schedule.

Sir Iain, who faced criticism for a remark about doctors' hours, last night sent a letter to the British Medical Association expressing regret for any offence he may have caused during his appearance on Tuesday at a Commons select committee.

Sir Iain, in evidence on Tuesday to the employment committee, said: "I would quite like a job as a junior doctor in the NHS. It might be quite relaxing."

Doctors at the three hospitals within the St George's Trust, Tooting, south London, said Sir Iain should look closer to home for evidence of the hours that doctors work. The trust, chaired by Dr Elizabeth Vallance, Sir Iain's wife, admitted that some junior doctors worked up to 80 hours a week. The government guideline is for a 72-hour week.

A spokeswoman for the trust said: "It is true. We are

doing what we can to bring those hours down. But most work no more than 72 hours a week."

Dr Andrew Carney, chairman of the BMA's junior hospital doctors' committee, said Sir Iain's comments were offensive. "I am appalled. Flip or serious, he should respond to our challenge and swap jobs. Then we could see whether he thought it was a subject to make a joke about. Sir Iain might also find the cut in pay quite relaxing — from his reported basic salary to an average £13,590. On my calculations a house officer earns in a year what Sir Iain earns in about ten days."

British Telecom yesterday launched a damage-limitation exercise. In addition to radio and television interviews, Sir Iain issued a personal statement. He said his remarks had been taken out of context. He said he had written to the BMA to explain the background to his remarks and regretted that one throwaway line, in 75 minutes before the select committee, had dominated the media coverage.

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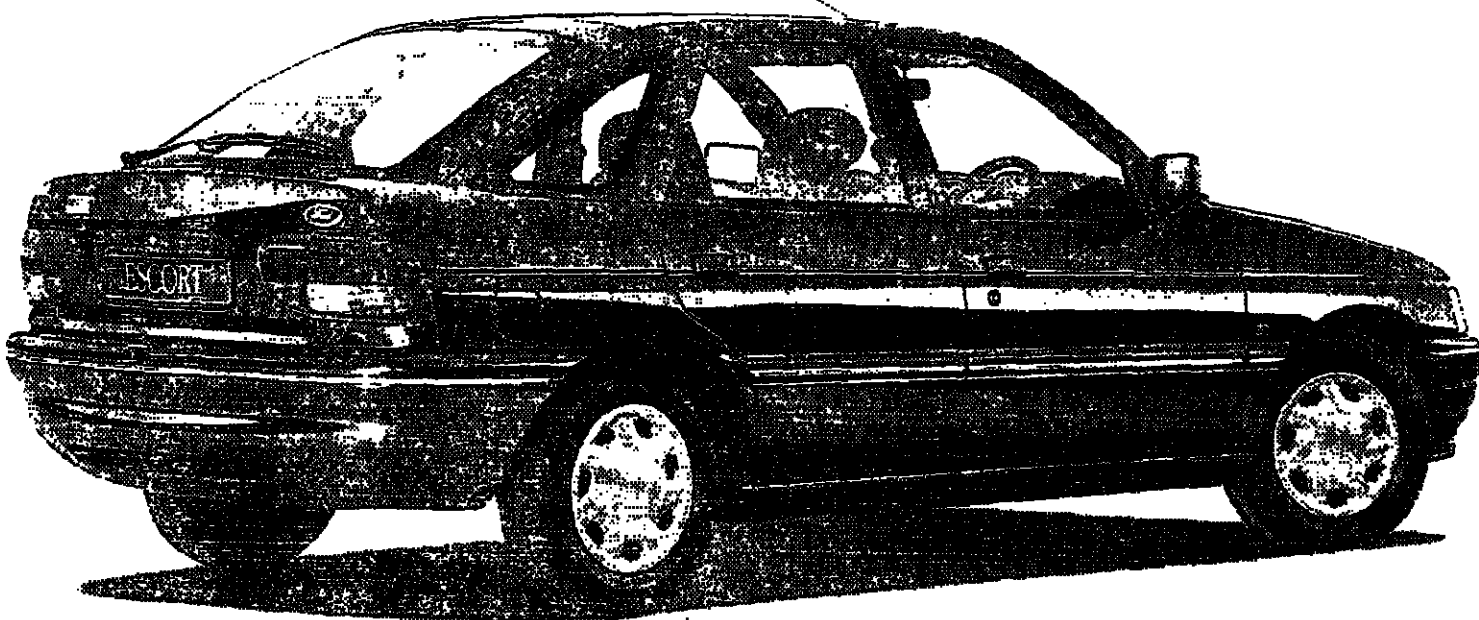
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## Schoolboy tells of £500 bill for sex club cola

By A Staff Reporter

A BOY was too ashamed to tell his family he had been charged £500 for a can of cola in a Soho sex club, the Old Bailey was told yesterday. His mother found out after she studied his bank account and took her 16-year-old son to a police station, where he told how he had been cheated.

Clair Malone, 20, one of the staff at the club in Piccadilly, has pleaded not guilty to blackmailing the boy, from Surrey, who cannot be named. He had gone to London last July planning to spend about £30 on an erotic film. He told the court that he was approached by a "blonde in a black dress" called Clair Malone. "She told me that the entrance fee for the Erotica Club would be £3 and I gave her a £10 note. She said I could have the change when I got downstairs."

He ordered a cola and was told that it would cost him £4.50. "I told them to take it out of my change from the entrance fee but they would not. I handed over another £10 note," he said.

After talking to two hostesses he was allegedly given the

£500 bill. He said he refused to pay but was pushed back into his seat by one of the women, who said that his parents would be told if he did not pay. His rucksack was searched and then the boy, who had pretended to be 18, was allegedly given a "legal form" by Ms Malone which he was asked to fill in with details of his name and address. The court was told. "They asked if I had a bank account and I told them I did. One of the women found a £10 note and handed that to the girl on the door."

As he was scared he claimed to have more than £750 in his account, and was taken to a bank. He was allowed to withdraw only £114, which he gave to the club.

The judge, Mr Recorder Chadwin, QC, pointed out that the teenager had handed over a total of £144 "and all you had got was a can of cola".

He was allowed to leave the club after promising to pay the rest of the money the next Saturday. "I went home feeling frightened. They seemed very serious about telling my parents. I knew what my father would be like," he told the jury.

He was forced to confess after his mother opened his bank statement. But even at the police station he did not tell the whole truth, he admitted. With his mother sitting beside him in the interview room he was too ashamed at first to say that he had gone to buy a blue film, and said that he had been looking for computer games. The trial continues.

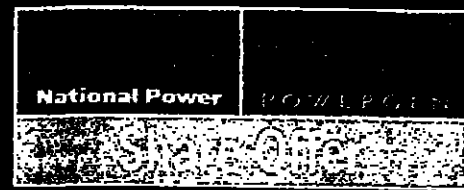
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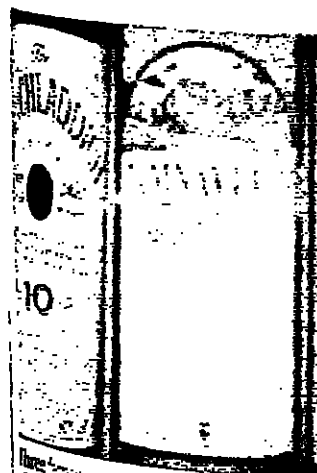


THE TIMES THURSDAY

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**Tony Lo**  
**after c**  
**case i**

## Whisky inc fears job loss distilleries



Dumb' car d  
recovers his v

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'There are people who will always believe I am guilty, but at least I know the truth'

## Tony Lock faces ruin after child abuse case is dropped

By JOHN YOUNG AND ROGER MAYNARD

TONY LOCK, the former England Test cricketer, who was cleared of child sex charges by an Australian court yesterday, said afterwards that he was close to financial ruin.

Mr Lock, 65, who has lung cancer and is expected to live for only a few months, spoke publicly for the first time since child abuse allegations were made three years ago.

The Test star, who in November 1993 was acquitted of indecently dealing with a girl aged 15 during a cricket lesson at his home, has been forced to sell some of his cricket memorabilia to help to meet legal costs of the two cases.

He and Jim Laker formed a renowned spin bowling pair for Surrey and England in the 1950s and 1960s, and he took 174 Test wickets. But yesterday he said: "I suppose when I die, it won't be Tony Lock, the greatest left-arm slow bowler



Lock charges partly to blame for wife's death

to play for England, but Tony Lock, the guy who was up on sex charges."

He had denied four charges of unlawfully and indecently dealing with a 10-year-old girl. He had met the girl's mother, a former member of the Australian women's cricket team, while he was a player-coach

for the Western Australia Sheffield Shield side.

The complainant, now 24 and married, alleged Mr Lock had fondled her when she stayed at his family home in 1980. But at the trial in December, six defence witnesses testified that the family had not moved into the house until the following year.

After a two-day hearing the jury failed to reach a verdict, and Mr Lock was remanded to appear in the Western Australian district court. Yesterday Ian Jones, for the prosecution, told the court that the charges were to be dropped because of the evidence given at the trial, Mr Lock's age and failing health, and the cost of a retrial.

After the hearing Mr Lock spoke of his wife Audrey, who died of a heart attack last September after 45 years of marriage. "She stood by me from the start and believed in me implicitly," he said. "I do believe these charges were a contributing factor in her



Tony Lock, second right, after taking seven wickets for 49 runs in Surrey's ten-wicket victory over Australia in 1956. Applauding him off the pitch are, from left, Peter May, Peter Loader, the umpire Laurie Gray and Ken Barrington

death because for any person it's a big strain.

"It's gratifying to know my fight for justice has been justified. But I don't feel over-elated. I'm relieved, but I'll never forget what I've been through. I've always had an

affinity with kids, boys and girls, but all this has made me think twice now about going near anyone.

"At least now I can hold my head a bit higher when I walk down the street. There are people who will always believe

I am guilty, but at least I know the truth. My reputation has been destroyed, but I'm lucky. I've got friends who won't give a stuff, and they're the only people who matter."

Mr Lock's son, Richard, said the charges had made the

cricketer reluctant to leave his home in Bournemouth, Dorset. "He didn't want to face people. It has affected all of us, not that we ever doubted dad's innocence."

Test preview, page 48

## Bank pays £2,500 over passive smoking

By NIGEL HAWKES

A BANK employee has been awarded £2,500 in an out-of-court settlement for an illness made worse by passive smoking.

Elizabeth Ashby, 49, who suffers from asthma, won the sum from her former employers, Chartered West LB Ltd in the City of London. In 1988 the Department of Employment had recommended that Mrs Ashby, who is a registered disabled person with a history of lung problems, should work in a smoke-free area.

But over the next three years smokers were introduced into the room she used, and she became ill, having to go into hospital in 1991. The employer's medical adviser acknowledged that the smoke had contributed to her condition, and a settlement was reached a week before the case was due in court.

John Bruty, of Sternberg Reed Taylor and Gill, solicitors for Mrs Ashby, of Forest Gate, east London, said the result would encourage anyone who thought they had suffered from environmental tobacco smoke.

Nigel Hawkes, page 17

## Whisky industry fears job losses as distilleries close

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THREE of Scotland's malt whisky distilleries are to close because of a surplus "whisky lake", prompting fears of another round of cutbacks similar to those of the early 1980s.

Whyte & Mackay, a subsidiary of the American group American Brands, is mothballing Tannavullin distillery in Banff, Grampian, and Bruichladdich on the Isle of Islay, and halting production of single malts at Tullibardine distillery in Blackford, Tayside, until further notice.

"Twenty-five jobs will go immediately, but locals fear many more will be lost as a result."

Whisky, which takes its name from the Gaelic *uisge beatha* (water of life) is vital to Scotland's tourist industry. For every person employed in the Scotch whisky industry, four others depend on them for their jobs.

Campbell Evans, of the Scotch Whisky Association, said: "In most of these communities whisky is the main industry. Only 3,500 people

live on Islay and apart from farming, whisky is the only real industry. It is a very sad day for Scottish whisky."

Tullibardine, which stands beneath the Ochil Hills on the site of a 17th-century brewery, close to the Gleneagles Hotel and golf course, is particularly popular with visitors. Most of its whisky is made for blending, but the Tullibardine ten-year-old malt is favoured for its light, fresh and clean quality. Bruichladdich's ten and 15-year malts are popular as aperitifs.

Scotch whisky production has fallen 18 per cent since 1990. In 1979 the industry employed 26,000 people. Today there are fewer than 15,000. Malt whisky accounts for 5 per cent of the market. Distillers are to appeal to the European Union against Japanese tax on whisky, which is seven times that applied to spirits imported from Japan. They say it flouts world trade agreements. Japan is the fourth biggest export market for Scotch, after America, France and Spain.



Three famous names will disappear after Whyte & Mackay halts production at three distilleries

## 'Dumb' car dealer recovers his voice

By ROBIN YOUNG

A SECONDHAND car dealer who claimed he could not give evidence in court because he had been struck dumb found his voice yesterday after the judge jailed him and ordered him to pay £12,800 compensation to his victims and £1,600 in costs.

As Keith Osborne, who had remained silent throughout his three-day trial at Isleworth Crown Court on fraud charges, was ordered to pay the money, he called out: "I thought I gave back more money than that."

Judge Thomas, who had been told that Osborne had undergone 12 sessions of

electro-convulsive shock therapy and had spent five months in the psychiatric wing of a hospital in attempts to restore his power of speech, observed: "That sounded like perfectly intelligible English to me."

In an earlier trial, a previous jury decided that Osborne, 44, of Ruislip, London, was remaining silent maliciously. When a second jury was sworn in, Osborne offered no evidence. The jury returned guilty verdicts on 10 of 12 charges.

They heard that Osborne had turned the clocks back on cars. One BMW was sold with 22,400 miles on the clock when the true mileage was nearer 65,000.

Judge Thomas sentenced Osborne to two and a half years' imprisonment and ordered £55,300 to be confiscated as his profits from fraud. Rejecting an application for an order under the Mental Health Act, he told Osborne: "If you need treatment for your medical condition, you can have it in prison."

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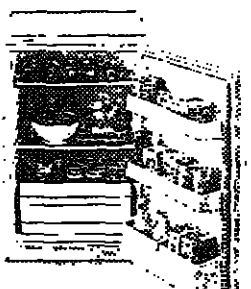
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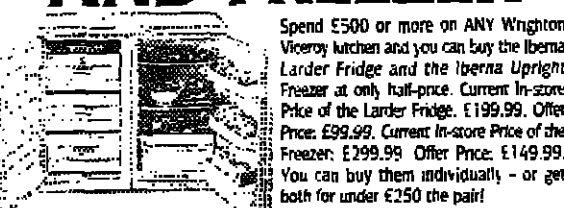
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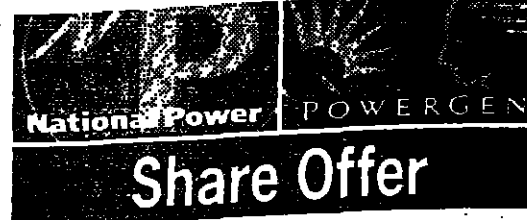


# The Power Issue - How to Register.



## Share Shops

To register for the National Power and PowerGen Share Offer, contact one of the Share Shops below. If you are a client of a stockbroker or share dealing service not listed below, you may wish to contact that firm as it may also be acting as a Share Shop for its existing clients. The services offered by different Share Shops may vary.



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Radio warning failed to stop second train hitting wreck

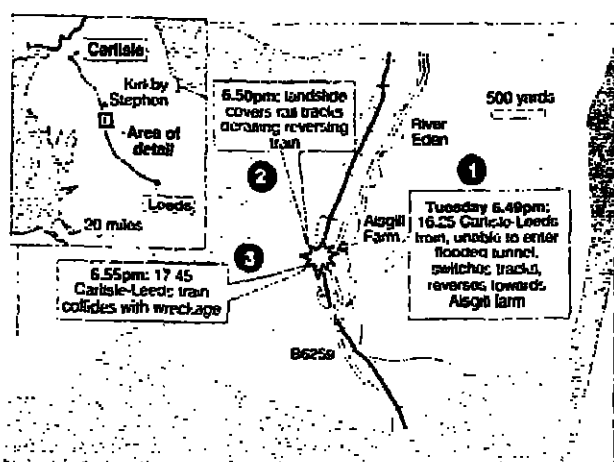
## Guard dies evacuating passengers from coach

By PAUL WILKINSON

A GUARD who was killed when his train was hit by another moments after it was derailed had helped passengers to safety, it emerged yesterday.

Stuart Wilson, 47, had calmed panicking passengers after their two-car Sprinter ploughed into a landslide in the dark five miles from Kirkby Stephen in Cumbria on Tuesday night. He had guided them from the blacked-out first carriage into the light and relative safety of the rear coach.

As he checked the inside of the leading car, which had derailed, he was struck by the second train. For six minutes, Cheshire, had been frantically attempting to raise the second train driver on his cab radio after the derailed train's crew warned of the blocked line. They had already alerted the emergency services after the derailment. Crash investiga-



tors were yesterday trying to discover why the radio warnings were not picked up by the driver but Cumbria Police said that the moorland was a notoriously bad reception area. A spokesman said: "We had terrible difficulties with communications at the scene. Mobile phones, even police radios, did not work."

Railtrack's own investiga-

Health and Safety Executive will be examining the train's communications system to see whether it was defective.

Mr Wilson's actions were praised by Libby Bodon, a passenger from Leeds, who with her five-week-old daughter Eleanor. She said: "His presence was a great comfort. He was a lovely man. He stayed with us talking about his family and grandchildren."

He was trying to help everyone and keep us calm."

A spokesman for Railtrack, owners of the Settle to Carlisle line said: "From some passengers' accounts it appears he was a bit of a hero. He had gone back into the unit carriage to see if anyone was still inside."

The accident happened after the driver of the 16.25 Carlisle to Leeds service had turned his train round at Stainforth, because tracks were impassable due to flooding. Less than 500 yards back down the line, at Aisgill, it was derailed by the landslide and soon after was struck by the 17.45 heading for Leeds.

Mr Wilson, who was divorced and lived with his son Andrew in Leeds, was killed. One woman suffered serious injuries and there were 30 "walking wounded", including the two train drivers. Six are still detained in the Cumberland Infirmary in Carlisle, one, June Mary Peel, 62, of Templegate Close, Leeds, in the intensive care unit.



Jennifer Taylor, top, and Amine Akanour, the ex-boyfriend who killed her parents, Barry and Janet

## Life sentences for man who killed ex-lover's parents

By BILL FROST

A MOROCCAN student who pursued his former girlfriend to England and killed her parents because she spurned him was given two life sentences yesterday.

Amine Akanour, 25, was convicted at Winchester Crown Court of murdering Janet Taylor, 46, a teacher, and her husband, Barry, 45, a university lecturer, at their home in Southsea, Hampshire, in December 1993. Passing sentence, Mr Justice Collins said it was clear Akanour had deliberately planned the killings because of his obsession with Jennifer Taylor, 24.

Akanour remained expressionless as the judge said: "Medical reports make it plain you are in need of treatment and it may be the Secretary of State will decide you should be transferred to a secure hospital to receive that treatment."

The court was earlier told that Akanour had used a kitchen knife to inflict "appalling" injuries on Mrs Taylor, virtually decapitating her. He left her body upside down in a

broom cupboard, then killed the family dog. When Dr Taylor arrived he was attacked with the hammer and left dying in the hallway.

Police arrested Akanour, who was heavily bloodstained, in a street near by. He later told detectives: "They deserved it."

At the trial it was said Akanour might have seen Dr and Mrs Taylor as an obstacle to reconciliation with their daughter, whom he met while studying in France.

On Miss Taylor's birthday, the day before the killings, Akanour called at the family home but there was no one in. He told the court that when he returned the next day he lost feeling in his legs and feet and sensed a "presence" as if someone else had entered him. The last thing he remembered was a "hospital smell".

The defence argued that Akanour, who was detained in Broadmoor, had not committed the killings. If he had attacked the couple, it was his mental state was such his responsibility was substantially impaired.

## 5 parishes desert bishop in protest over clergyman

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

PARISHIONERS whose clergyman was sacked for wanting to marry for a third time have decided to take the management of their churches out of the bishop's hands and run them by themselves.

Five of the ten parishes in Norfolk ministered to by the Rev Kit Chalcraft are to opt out of diocesan control and invite clergy of their own choosing to take services.

They will stop paying their "quotas" to the diocese and use the money saved to pay clergy directly. They will also exercise their right to refuse anyone put forward to replace Mr Chalcraft.

He will lose his job as priest-in-charge of the Hil-

borough group of parishes at the end of this month, when his licence is withdrawn by the Bishop of Norwich, the Right Rev Peter Nott.

Announcing the decision last year, the bishop said: "A

clergyman who marries for the third time following two divorces can in no way bear witness effectively to Christian standards of marriage."

Five parishes have accepted the loss of Mr Chalcraft but the other five, Bodney, Diddlington, Little Cressingham, Oxborough and Thuxton, have decided that from the end of next month they no longer want to be part of the group.

John Davies, churchwarden of Little Cressingham, said: "The way the bishop dumped Kit enraged us. He has not been here in all the seven and a half years Kit has been our priest. We don't want him making rules about what we should do."

Mr Davies has written to the Bishop of Norwich's suffragan, the Right Rev David Conner, Bishop of Lynn, outlining the five churches' plans. "We will accept the spiritual leadership of the bishop but not his management of our affairs. We will not be paying our quota (£1,100 a year)."

Mr Chalcraft, 57, who plans to marry a widow, said: "I am going to have six months off, during which time I will get married and sort out my future. At the moment I have no plans to take services anywhere."

Bishop Nott said the parishes were acting as if they were an independent sect when they should be working together to heal divisions.

"They seem to want to continue as members of the Church of England on the one hand, and on the other to have nothing to do with the structure of the Church," Bishop Nott said.

Chalcraft: soon to marry for third time

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Chalcraft: soon to marry for third time

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# Pro-Europe Tories strike back with manifesto launch

By NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TORY pro-Europeans will today hit back in the internal feud over Europe by publishing their own manifesto intended to underpin Britain's approach to the critical 1996 inter-governmental conference on the future of the Union.

Yesterday a three-hour meeting of the Positive Europeans, the backbench ginger group that claims a membership of 90 Tory MPs, agreed a policy statement to be published today.

Members of the group said last night that the paper would be a restatement of the case for British membership of the European Union and would point out that unlike during the 1970s and 1980s, no responsible political party was arguing for withdrawal.

Although the paper will refrain from direct attacks on headline Tory Euro-sceptics, it is bound to be seen as a preliminary riposte to the "mission statement" that was published about ten days ago by the nine Tory rebels who have lost the party whip. That document called for an overhaul of the EU, including the repudiation of economic and monetary union and the replacement of the European Parliament with an assembly

of MPs nominated by national parliaments. Leading members of the Positive European group said that the rebel statement boiled down to a demand for a British exit from the EU.

Today's paper will restate the broad principles behind British membership. Later documents will set out the pro-European agenda for the inter-governmental conference.

The group's meeting was also attended by Jeremy Hanley, the Conservative party chairman, as senior ministers pressed ahead with their campaign to ease Tory tensions after the disclosures by *The Times* about last week's Cabinet meeting having marked a Euro-sceptic shift in government policy towards the 1996 conference.

Mr Hanley denied that the Cabinet was split over Europe and that Mr Major was changing tack to appease the nine exiles. He told the meeting, attended by 20 members of the group: "Ours is not a negative view of Europe. We want a Europe which works."

He added: "We cannot be positive without being realistic and we cannot be realistic without being positive." The majority of Tories saw the benefits of being in Europe,

especially concerning trade, environment and defence, but realised that the Government must not say "Yes" to everything.

But the party chairman's attempt to paper over the cracks was undermined by Hugh Dykes, Tory MP for Harrow East and chairman of the European Movement, who said he was "deeply shocked" at suggestions made to him by a senior member of the Government that in the IGC negotiations Britain would seek an "opt out" from Maas-tricht decisions.

He was also worried at approaches made to him on the lines that everything could be amicably resolved within the Tory party as long as the pro-Europeans saw the reality of a more robust nationalist attitude.

In another development yesterday, Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, said on BBC radio that he would support a referendum on a single currency if it became a firm proposal in 1999. In the Commons, Mr Hurd denied that government policy on Europe was being shaped to appease the rebels as he responded to taunts by the opposition parties that the nine were wringing conces-



sions out of the Cabinet. Alan Milburn, Labour MP for Darlington, said: "Isn't it now obvious that Britain's interests in Europe are secondary in your mind to the appeasement of competing factions inside the Conservative party? Why don't you

stand up for what we all know you believe in rather than playing footsie with those who clearly want you out of your current job?"

Mr Hurd replied: "What we are doing is this: on the basis of the general principles which Mr Major established in his

speech at Leiden and has elaborated since, we are constructing specific and positive proposals which Britain will be able to put forward at the IGC next year."

"That is the immediate task before us and I'm sure that's the right way to set about it."

## Gummer suffers MPs' anger over council squeeze

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN GUMMER was attacked by Tory and opposition MPs last night over the level of cash grants to local councils. MPs, fighting their own corner, argued in a Commons debate that the allocations would lead to service cuts, teaching redundancies and larger class sizes.

Mr Gummer, the Environment Secretary, announced at the end of last year that central support for local councils would fall by 0.4 per cent in cash terms after discounting extra money for community care. Since then MPs have been inundated with claims by council leaders that the settlement will lead to drastic cuts in education.

Last night Mr Gummer conceded that the money would be tight next year but argued that this need not lead to service cuts. He insisted that the settlement would allow most authorities to increase spending year on year but there would have to be greater efficiency.

"We have had to make tough decisions on all areas of public spending this year and

this settlement is no exception," he said. "We have to strike a balance between the proper responsibility of central government for the economy as a whole, including the control of inflation, and the proper duty of local government to decide how much it wants to spend to meet local needs."

Mr Gummer did announce a change to the capping criteria. Any authority whose standing spending assessment was reduced by 10 per cent as a result of the 1993 review would have its budget frozen rather than reduced, he said.

Several Tory backbenchers criticised Mr Gummer. Alan Howarth, MP for Stratford-upon-Avon, said the settlement in Warwickshire would increase pressure on schools.

"Our frustration is that year after year our representations appear to be ignored," he said. "The future quality of life in our country depends to a large extent on whether we invest in our schools. I regret very much that the Government's present proposals run counter to these purposes."

## Schools fear cuts in teaching staff

By BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of state schools will be forced to shed teachers or face big increases in class sizes unless the Government helps to fund the profession's pay increase, local authority leaders said yesterday.

Graham Lane, chairman of the Labour-controlled Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said councils would need at least £140 million if the School Teachers' Pay Review Body recommends an inflation-proof increase next week, as expected.

Mr Lane said most authorities had budgeted for an increase of 1 to 1.5 per cent but would require individual schools to find any extra themselves. "This would have a devastating impact on children, particularly in urban areas. Primary classes of more than 35 are no longer

unusual, and those of more than 30 are commonplace."

Councillors lobbying Parliament yesterday said persuading ministers to intervene was difficult because the impact of the financial squeeze would vary greatly between schools. They hoped that governors would encourage parents to blame the cuts on the Government.

Janet Morgan, the joint chairman of Oxfordshire's education committee, said 400 jobs were at risk. Council officers had recommended that £2.6 million be put aside to fund redundancies in the next two years.

Liz Boait, education chairman in Gloucestershire, said academic standards were falling as a result of education cuts of 10 per cent over the past three years. A 4 per cent cut was threatened this year.

## Homeowners paying 'for Tory failings'

HOUSING costs for Britain's ten million mortgage holders will rise by over 25 per cent in the next nine months, Labour said yesterday (Alice Thomson writes).

Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, said the typical homeowner would be paying more than £800 extra in costs that would rise from £3,200 last April to more than £4,000 by this October.

The Labour figures were released on the day that mortgage interest-rate rises began to be felt by millions of homeowners and as the Nationwide Building Society reported a 0.5 per cent fall in

house prices over the year up to last month.

Mr Brown said mortgage rates were rising as a consequence of Tory economic failure, and all homeowners had to pay the new insurance tax on home contents and building insurance. Also, from October 1995, government help for unemployed mortgage holders was being cut back and homeowners would need private insurance. Labour would make Tory MPs face up to their manifesto pledge to homeowners by forcing a Commons vote on the proposal to "impose private mortgage insurance".

## Clegg case prompts yellow card rethink

By ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Government is to consider giving legal status to the yellow card that outlines the rules of engagement for troops in Northern Ireland.

Ministers will also examine the position of police officers and soldiers in the Province as part of a review of the murder law, it was announced in the Commons yesterday. The review follows protests over the case of Lee Clegg, the para-trooper serving a life sentence for the shooting of a joyrider in Belfast.

Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister, told MPs that it would be wrong to

rule out at this stage the possibility of creating a lesser offence than murder that might apply to those who "use lethal force in the carrying out of their duty in maintaining law and order".

Earlier, backbenchers on both sides stepped up the pressure to free Private Clegg, 26, whose appeal was dismissed by the Law Lords last month. Julian Brazier (Con, Canterbury), who initiated the debate, called for him to be released on licence. He said the case had left soldiers in doubt about when they were justified in opening fire.

Mr Soames denied that there was any uncertainty over soldiers' understanding

of the rules. "It is impressed on all servicemen that in all situations which they may face they are to use the minimum of force and firearms may only be used as a last resort," he said. But he added that it was right to acknowledge the "split-second judgments" that had to be made in countering "wicked terrorism".

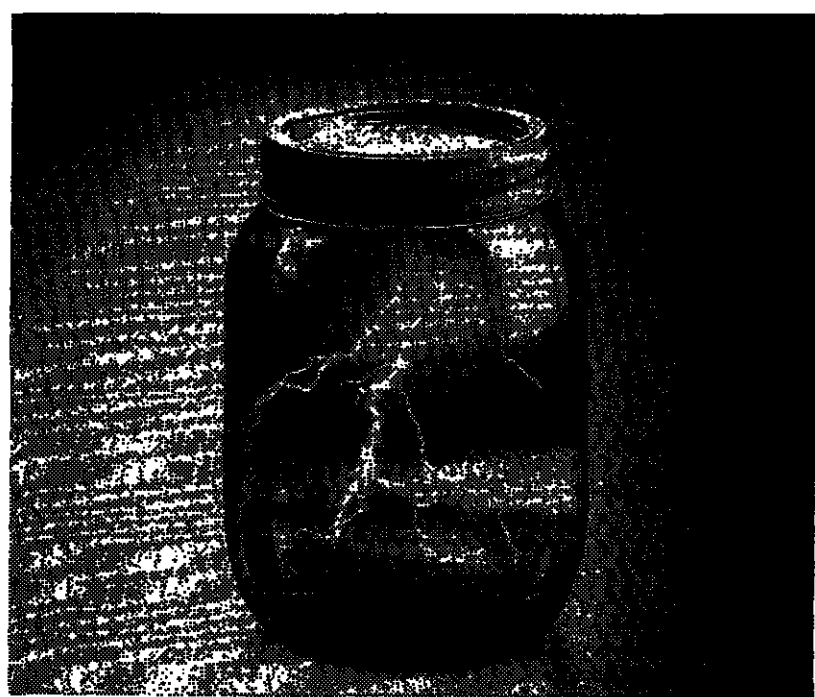
Joe Hendron (SDLP, West Belfast) said that joyriders had never been linked to paramilitary activity in Northern Ireland and they did not deserve to be shot dead. He conceded, however, that the accusation of murder in Clegg's case might have been too strong.

### IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY: The Commons sat at 10am for backbench debates on Northern Ireland rules of engagement, care in the community funding, the Suffolk police budget, Wye flood by-pass and the Lockerbie bombing. At 2.30pm questions to Foreign Office ministers were followed by a statement by Sir Patrick Mayhew, Northern Ireland Secretary, on the latest framework document. MPs then debated the English Revenue Support Grant Reports. In the Lords, debates on juvenile

crimes and the Civil Service's role were followed by the committee stage of the War Crimes (Supplementary Provisions) Bill. TODAY: In the Commons, questions to Treasury ministers and the Prime Minister will be followed by debates on Social Security (Incapacity for Work) regulations and the science budget. The Lords will debate the Environment Bill and the Civil Evidence (Family Mediation) (Scotland) Bill.

Letters, page 19



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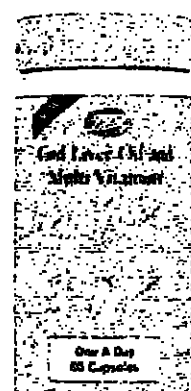
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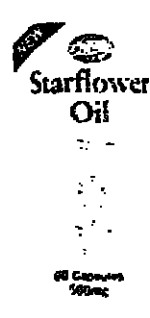
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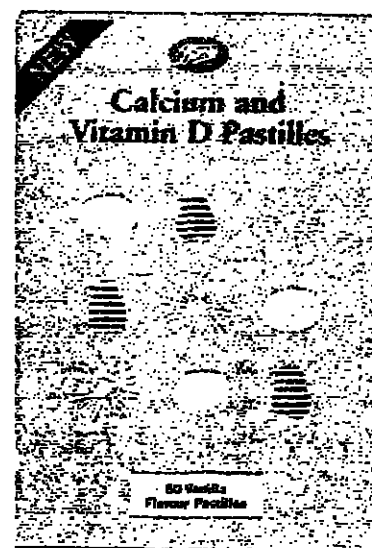
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Civil servant says CSA's 'broad brush' will lead to more complaints

# MPs told agency reforms will lead to rougher justice

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

REFORMS to the Child Support Agency will create "rougher justice", leading to a new wave of complaints, a senior civil servant admitted yesterday. The changes that were announced last month by Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, would mean that the agency would use a more "broad-brush" method of assessing maintenance payments, it was said.

After heavy criticism of the complicated formula for assessing payments, Mr Lilley announced that it would be loosened to allow the agency to catch up with a huge backlog of outstanding cases. Sir Michael Partridge, Permanent Secretary at the Department of Social Security, told MPs: "The broad-brush approach may well produce more complaints because it is a rougher justice." He added: "It is not necessarily the end."

Sir Michael, giving evidence before the Commons Select Committee on the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration, admitted the existing formula was "very complicated". Both Sir Michael



Sir Michael: existing formula complicated

and Ann Chant, chief executive of the CSA, faced a barrage of attacks from Conservative and Labour MPs over the agency's past failures, which were the subject last month of a highly critical report by William Reid, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration. However, Miss Chant blamed an orchestrated wrecking campaign by a minority of absent parents and critics of the agency for some of the delays in dealing with

maintenance cases. She said: "I have never seen in 30 years in social security such an orchestrated and organised attempt to avoid legal liability. That was unprecedented and I don't think it could reasonably have been foreseen."

Miss Chant claimed that agency staff were subjected to time-wasting telephone calls and said that meetings to organise opposition to the scheme were organised by people with no direct interest.

In the face of criticism against the agency of incorrect assessments and wrong identification of absent parents, Miss Chant said that the agency would slow down some of its work in order to ensure greater accuracy in future and added that staff who made mistakes would be disciplined.

Some targets originally set for dealing with cases might have been "an unrealistic achievement" and Mr Lilley was reviewing the time-scale to achieve a better balance between speed and accuracy, she said. "There will be quite a difference in targets."

Miss Chant said that many complaints could have been expected because of the "sheer



Ann Chant, head of the Child Support Agency: "I have never in 30 years seen such an orchestrated and organised attempt to avoid legal liability"

shock' felt by absent parents who were asked to make "commercially realistic" maintenance payments instead of the low financial assistance to which they had been accustomed. Many parents used to paying between £8 and £12 a week had been faced with bills of £30 to £40, which they were not prepared to pay.

Sir Michael was also

pressed to consider financial compensation for cases in which people had been caused stress or worry because of CSA mistakes. Tony Wright, a Labour committee member, said that, although there had been almost 30,000 complaints against the agency, only 16 compensation payments had been made, totalling £1,148.46. "There is such a

huge mismatch between the scale of misery generated by this agency and the paltry compensation payments," he said.

Sir Michael said that the issue of compensation was being reviewed but insisted that it should be necessary to provide medical evidence to support claims of harm caused by worry or stress.

## Gulf troops say effects of drugs were kept secret

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

GULF War veterans clashed with senior Ministry of Defence officials yesterday after claiming that they had been pressured into taking a cocktail of drugs to counter anthrax and other biological warfare weapons during the 1991 conflict.

The Gulf War veterans told a hearing of the Commons Defence Committee that no one warned them of the potential side-effects of the vaccines.

The men now claim to be suffering from Gulf War syndrome, an illness said to involve memory loss, swelling joints, fainting spells, panic attacks and blurred vision. They told the MPs that they had been ordered to line up in the desert and have all the injections simultaneously.

Robert Lake, a former corporal with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, who attended the hearing in a wheelchair, said that he had been told that unless he agreed to have the injections, he would have to sign a disclaimer, absolving the MoD of any liability if he were injured in an Iraqi chemical or biological warfare attack.

Vice-Admiral Tony Revell, Surgeon General, told the MPs he was astonished by the allegation. "This was certainly not ministry policy," he said. He admitted, however, that it was possible that individual

commanding officers may have taken this precaution if a soldier had refused to have the injections.

Bruce George, acting chairman of the committee, expressed amazement that, with more than 500 cases of alleged Gulf War syndrome, only one doctor, Wing Commander Bill Coker, had been engaged to assess the cases.

Wg Cdr Coker said until now he had been dealing with the cases only on two days a week. However, after Mr George said the issue should be taken more seriously by the MoD, Vice-Admiral Revell said the assessment process would be speeded up. Wg Cdr Coker would soon start handling the cases full-time and he might be allocated another doctor to assist with clearing the backlog of patients.

Former servicemen and women who claim they are plagued by the syndrome are having to wait up to eight months for examinations. The MoD will not reveal the nature of five or six of the vaccinations because it does not want potential enemies to know what British troops can be protected against.

Sufferers are angry that they have to travel from all over the country to the Princess Alexandra's Hospital at RAF Wroughton, Oxfordshire, for tests.

### SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

A friend asked me to do a refresher column on leads. Whole books have been written on the subject, so obviously I can hardly cover it all in one column. Also it is important to realise that on many hands the lead may be a complete guess.

However, there are some general principles. What would you lead from each of the following hands: (a) after the sequence INT-3NT, (b) after the sequence One Spade-Three Spades-Four Spades?

- 1 ♠ 984 ♥ QJ10 ♦ KJ984 ♣ 32  
2 ♠ 973 ♥ 862 ♦ 65432 ♣ 63  
3 ♠ 73 ♥ AKJ ♦ 53 ♣ J97654  
4 ♠ 865 ♥ Q1085 ♦ A432 ♣ Q2

1 (a) Against 3NT you should try to set up your long suit. Lead the fourth highest diamond (the eight).

(b) When you are blessed with a sequence like QJ10, that is usually the best lead against a suit contract — it starts to set up tricks for the defence, and it is safe. So lead the queen of hearts against Four Spades — always the top from a sequence.

2 (a) For once you don't lead from your longest when you have no chance of running your suit. It is a toss-up between a heart or a spade — what you are trying to do is start developing your partner's long suit. Whichever you choose, you should lead the middle of the three, and play the top on the next round — called "MUD", for middle-up-down, the normal convention from three small cards in this country.

(b) Against Four Spades 1

### KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE  
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

#### Fleeing king

The Russian grandmaster Eduard Gufeld, who lost so spectacularly against Julian Hodgson in the game I published in this column on Monday, also has numerous adventurous wins to his credit. This game, where both kings are in jeopardy, and the white monarch is chased right across the board, is one of his more fiery efforts.

White: Cooper  
Black: Gufeld  
Hastings 1992-93

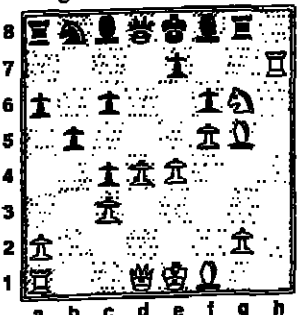
#### Trompovsky Attack

- 1 d4 Nf6  
2 Bg5 Ne4  
3 Bf4 d5  
4 f3 Nf6  
5 Nc3 e6  
6 e4 Be7  
7 Qd2 0-0  
8 0-0-0 e6  
9 exd5 exd5  
10 g4 b4  
11 h4 a5  
12 Na2 e4  
13 Ng3 Nc6  
14 Kb1 Nd6  
15 g5 Bc5  
16 h5 d3  
17 e3 Nd6  
18 c3 Na5  
19 Bc3 Nd4  
20 Kb1+ Kc6  
21 g6+ Kc8

- 22 Qh2 Bg5  
23 h6 gxf6  
24 g7 Re8  
25 N1e2 Re6  
26 Rdg1 Qf6  
27 Ne4 dxe4  
28 Bg5 Qxf3  
29 Bxh6 Nxd3+  
30 Ka1 Qc3  
31 Nf4 Nc2+  
32 Kb1 Na3+  
33 Ka1 Nc2+  
34 Kb1 a3  
35 Nxd3 a2+  
36 Kc1 a1Q+  
37 Kd2 exd3+  
38 Ke2 Nc4+  
39 Kf3 Bb7+  
40 Kg3 Rg6+  
41 Bg5 Re3+  
42 Kg4 Rg5+  
43 Kf4 Re4+

Black resigns

#### Diagram of final position



After 44 Kxg5 Qa5+ 45 Kh6 Re6+ forces checkmate.

Winning Move, page 48

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## Croats accused of prolonging war misery on streets of crumbling Bosnian town

## Euro mayor struggles to bridge Mostar divide

SIX months ago, the European Union took over the administration of this once beautiful medieval Bosnian town. But Mostar, torn apart in a few months of inter-communal fighting a year ago, remains in ruins and its people disunited.

The cycle of destruction has been halted, but further repairs seem to depend on the wider political dramas in the former Yugoslavia and on the energies of one man — Hans Koschnik.

The former Mayor of Bremen is the EU-appointed Mayor of Mostar. He has become an almost mythical figure in the town, the man in whom all hopes repose.

Old men in black woollen bonnets and blue overalls, clearing up the debris of the shelling on the Muslim side, say they are "working for Koschnik". Young women who try to cross from one side of Mostar to the other say that they "rely on Koschnik". Politicians on both sides of the



William Shawcross in Mostar argues that the Bosnian Croats are frustrating attempts by the EU administrator to reunite the town

river say they talk to each other "because of Koschnik". The Mayor's remit is to arrange democratic elections, guarantee human rights, help citizens of Mostar return to their homes, and ensure the national, religious and cultural identity of all people under EU administration. To these ends, the Union has invested 30 million euros (£23.6 million) last year and 80 million euros this year to rebuild the town and reunite its people. However, the bitterness between the two sides and uncertainty over the future is making the task rather hard.

The most obvious problem is the breakdown of law and order, especially in the west, and the inability of the EU to create a joint police force. Before the war, Mostar was almost a paradigm of a mixed population. Of its 127,000 people, 35 per cent were Muslim, 34 per cent Croat and 19 per cent Serb.

They had the highest rate of mixed marriage in Bosnia-Herzegovina. There were roughly defined territorial divisions and in the middle of the town was the Neretva river, tumbling through a narrow gorge. In May 1993, a year after the war began in Bosnia, Croat-Muslim fighting began in Mostar after the Bosnian

Croats declared the town their capital. Croats in what became known as west Mostar subjected Muslims in the east to a ten-month siege. Croat artillery attacks on houses in the east forced the inhabitants to huddle in cellars. They became dependent on aid from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The Croats expelled most of the Muslims who lived in the west across the dangerous strip of no man's land and the river. Hundreds were killed. In perhaps the most blatant act of destruction, Croat gunners in November 1993 brought down the arched stone bridge which linked the two sides of the town. The demolition served as a visual symbol of the political, religious and ethnic divisions that had turned former neighbours into warring enemies.

Last March, the Washington Agreement created a Croat-Muslim Bosnian Federation, and brought an end to



East Mostar, where 55,000 Muslims remain without water or electricity and depend on UN handouts

the fighting in Mostar. But the apparent peace did not remove the effects of the fighting. The east side's 55,000 Muslims, many of them refugees from other parts of Bosnia, remained crammed into cellars, with no water or

electricity, dependent on UN handouts and forbidden from crossing to the Croat side. The EU then began to administer the town. Germany, with its historic ties with Croatia, took the lead. But Herr Koschnik's arrival was delayed by disrup-

tive behaviour by Greece, which held the presidency of the EU and was favouring its old Serb allies. Even when Germany took over the presidency in the second half of last year, it proved hard to get money out of the European bureaucracy.

Even more dangerous has been local opposition to any reconciliation. Soon after Herr Koschnik's arrival, a rocket-propelled grenade was fired by Croats through his bedroom window. Fortunately he was not in the room.

Along with his multinational European staff, Herr Koschnik lives close to the west bank of the Neretva river, in a comfortable, though not luxurious, hotel. While I was there, his senior staff hosted a regular dinner for Muslim and Croat leaders which included three hours of sterile argument over who was to blame for the failure to get the electricity and water systems working properly. In east Mostar, 80 per cent of the power system was destroyed.

Of the two sides, the Muslims have clearly suffered the worse, but both sides are becoming more intransigent. East Mostar is run by the main Muslim party, the SDA, and the west by the Croatian HDZ. Both are hardline.

The EU has been unable to get the two sides to agree on a united police force. As a result, criminal gangs rule. Vehicles, particularly the four-wheel-drive versions favoured by aid agencies, are being stolen almost constantly.

On the east bank, Safet Orucovic, the Muslim Mayor, thinks the Croat authorities on the other bank deliberately keep the gangs going. "They want to keep two Mostars, and they hide behind the mafias, who are not normal crooks but are the people who until recently were doing the ethnic cleansing," he said.

The 120 EU policemen have a mandate to co-ordinate, train and monitor, but not to make arrests. Of different nationalities, they are by all accounts poorly led, and absurdly circumscribed. The Spanish Battalion of the UN Protection Force (Unprofor) is also widely regarded as a joke.

However, both sides acknowledge that things would have been far worse without the EU. In the streets of east Mostar, old men clear the rubble from lovely old buildings now open to the sky. A German aid agency has

brought in roofing materials. Some shops, including a pharmacy, are now open. Almost everyone still depends on handouts from the UNHCR and EU. Last September, British army engineers constructed a Bailey bridge, but movement between Croat and Muslim areas is still restricted to 250 people a day, all of whom have to have special permits.

The Croats show no sign of wishing to reintegrate the town. Herr Koschnik has demanded an end to the eviction of Muslims from flats in the west. However, urban renewal of this kind cannot be imposed. Much depends on whether the Croat-Muslim Federation, which enabled the EU to come to Mostar in the first place, survives.

Herr Koschnik, a diligent and dedicated man, says: "If



Koschnik: battling for ethnic reconciliation

the Croats take the view that a unified city is not wanted, then the EU's mission has no point any more. We are not just in Mostar to rebuild, we are here to bring people together."

□ Moscow: Russia said yesterday that the peacekeeping mission to Bosnia by Jimmy Carter, the former American President, had worsened prospects for a lasting peace settlement by hardening the positions of the Bosnian Serbs and the Muslims, the Interfax news agency reported.

The comments, by a senior Russian official, were reported on the eve of a visit to Moscow by Haris Silajdzic, the Bosnian Prime Minister.

The unnamed official said that Russia would not resume contacts with the Bosnian Serbs, which were severed last year, unless they accepted the five-nation Contact Group's plan. (Reuters)

## How sniper shots do not break ceasefire

By EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

SHOOTING a civilian in Sarajevo is not counted as a ceasefire violation unless the United Nations can prove that the attacker was from one warring faction and the victim from another, the UN said yesterday.

Shootings are logged as "firing incidents" but, because they are not included in reports of ceasefire violations, the truce is often portrayed as generally holding even when Sarajevans are running the gauntlet of snipers, aid workers said. Yesterday, for instance, the UN acknowledged

two ceasefire violations in the wake of Bosnia when artillery shells exploded in Bosnian Government-held territory in the northeast. There were, however, at least 60 "firing incidents" in Sarajevo.

A ceasefire violation "is where there is direct targeting of one side by another, and this can be proved by us", said Alexander Ivanko, a spokesman for the UN Protection Force in Sarajevo. The criteria for proof was when UN observers "see [or can discover by investigation] where the shot was coming from".

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# Berlusconi faces charge over soccer transfer

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

THE judicial woes of Silvio Berlusconi, the former Italian Prime Minister, were compounded yesterday after he was placed under investigation with his brother Paolo on charges of financial irregularities with regard to the signing of a player to his AC Milan football team.

The charges relate to the acquisition of Gianfranco Lentini during Signor Berlusconi's chairmanship of the leading club. The allegations came as Lamberto Dini, his successor as Prime Minister, easily won a vote of confidence for his Government of technocrats in the Italian Senate, the Upper House of parliament.

The football allegations come after other charges under which Signor Berlusconi was accused of corruption on suspicion of bribing tax inspectors who were investigating his Fininvest media holding company.

The Senate vote allowed Signor Dini, a former central banker, to assume full powers after his Government survived a confidence test in the Chamber of Deputies, the Lower House, last week. In a speech before the vote, Signor Dini, the Treasury Minister in

the outgoing Government headed by Signor Berlusconi, which collapsed in December, appealed for a period of political truce. "The moderate tone and measured language used in this debate are essential for the development of a climate of political tolerance and successful functioning of democratic institutions," he said.

Francesco Saverio Borrelli, the chief prosecutor of the Milan magistrates investigating Italy's three-year corruption scandal, did not want to comment on the possible new charges against the former Prime Minister. "Your curiosity is inappropriate until you have confirmation from the computerised list of the accused," he said.

Signor Borrelli denied that Signor Berlusconi had received a new judicial warning that he was under investigation on suspicion of committing a crime.

But *Il Messaggero* newspaper commented: "The very caution of the magistrate, which is substantially equivalent to a confirmation, has accelerated the suspicions and the rumours."

Signor Dini obtained the support of leftwingers, centrists and the devolutionist Northern League, winning the crucial vote in the Senate by 191 to 17 with two abstentions after only 210 of the 325 senators took part in the ballot.

The centre-right Freedom Alliance coalition of Signor Berlusconi opted not to participate. The coalition formally abstained in the confidence vote in the Lower House last week, but a similar abstention yesterday would have counted as a "no" vote under Senate rules. The Freedom Alliance plans to support Signor Dini's four-point programme issue by issue while continuing to seek an early general election, which it regards as essential.



Berlusconi: inquiry into AC Milan's finances



Death row: the central boulevard in Grozny, the capital of breakaway Chechnya, devastated by weeks of Russian artillery attacks

## Russian revenge raid 'kills 20' in village

FROM SEBASTIAN SMITH IN SAMASHKI

THE Russian army surrounded and devastated Samashki in western Chechnya in a calculated punishment attack, residents said yesterday.

The village of 14,000 people was hit by cannon, rocket and helicopter fire on Tuesday after independence fighters fought off a Russian column trying to enter the village on Monday.

"They surrounded us, coming right up to the outskirts of the village, and started to hammer the centre for five hours — then the helicopters came," said Yurag Betmarsayev, 45. No one knew just how many people were killed, but most estimates put the toll at 20.

"On our street two people were killed," Mr Betmarsayev said. "There were four more down there, and in the next street not a house was left untouched." A shell made a

direct hit on a fragile basement, piercing the concrete and starting a fire inside, where a mother and daughter had been hiding.

The woman's legs were blown off and she died from loss of blood, because it was impossible to get her through the Russian lines to the hospital, neighbours said.

"I was just walking home when they opened up with shells and I was hit," said Akhmedov Abiyev, 28, taken to hospital with a shrapnel wound to the chest.

Shrapnel holes the size of fists pocked the brick walls. Gaping holes punctured roof after roof and gas pipes burned. A truck was incinerated, a car was peppered with hundreds of machinegun bullet holes or shrapnel punctures. Jagged shell fragments littered the ground in places, and in one garden the remains of a Grad multiple

rocket lay in the mud. An old woman stood weeping outside her small house, its roof caved in. A deaf man wandered about his farmyard, tending chickens, apparently oblivious to the destruction along his entire street.

Witnesses said the Russians fired from midday to dusk, then pulled back to their positions a mile or two across the flat fields. "The wounded who had to get out could not, so they died," said Malika Khaskhannova, a nurse at the Akhkhov Martan hospital, five miles from Samashki.

On Monday, about 16 Russian armoured personnel carriers and a light tank tried to enter the village, but were confronted by a hail of Chechen anti-tank grenade fire. About 30 Chechen guerrillas were seen taking up positions at a bridge outside the village to ambush the flank of the column, which



said Issa Besengurov, 23. However, Mr Betmarsayev pleaded for an end to the revenge attacks.

"This is not war, this is extermination," he said. "It's not against the Chechen leader, General Dzhokhar Dudayev, it's not against armed bandits, it's against the people. Leave us in peace."

Dudayev's warrant: Moscow last night issued an arrest warrant for General Dudayev, Russia's chief prosecutor accused the rebel leader of treason and incitement to terrorism.

A Chechen spokesman, quoted by the independent Interfax news agency, said that General Dudayev was still at his military headquarters in Grozny, several hundred yards from the front line separating the Russian forces and the Chechen defenders. Ten days ago, the Russian authorities said that they had launched a manhunt for the general. (AFP)

## Sweden calls for halt to UN veto

BY MICHAEL BINYON  
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITAIN and the other permanent members of the United Nations should refrain from using their veto in the Security Council except in exceptional circumstances so that in ten years this power could be dropped altogether, Ingvar Carlsson, the Swedish Prime Minister, told John Major yesterday.

He also called for the immediate entry of five new permanent members and three more rotating members to bring the council strength up to 23. This would correct the unrepresentative nature of a body built around preserving the power of the five victorious nations of 1945.

Presenting the report on the Commission on Global Governance, of which he is co-chairman, Mr Carlsson gave Mr Major a list of proposals that the Commission, originally set up by the late Willy Brandt, believes will improve international co-operation and global security. Before yesterday evening's meeting, he detailed the main findings in a speech to the Royal Institute of International Affairs.

Mr Carlsson said the UN was showing signs of age after 50 years. He called for a standing UN volunteer force of well-trained peacekeepers who could respond quickly to calls for their deployment. Agencies such as the UN Conference on Trade and Development and the UN Industrial Development Organisation, no longer needed, should be abolished.

The Swedish leader also insisted on amendments to the UN Charter to allow intervention in areas where there were serious humanitarian crises, such as Rwanda, Haiti and Chechnya.

"The time has come for the international community to assert its rights and interests in situations within states where the security of people is gravely violated," he said. "Too often regimes have violated their people's rights and rebuffed international concern by using the principle of non-interference."

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<b>BARCLAYS STUDENT BANK ACCOUNTS</b> Two versions of the Barclays Bank Account for students. Credit interest is paid quarterly.	£1+	2.00	1.50
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## Peru vows to pull back tanks

Buenos Aires President Menem of Argentina said he was confident that, having spoken to the Presidents of Peru and Ecuador, their border conflict would end soon.

The Argentine leader, whose country is one of four guarantors of the 1942 Rio de Janeiro protocol, which sought to settle the frontier dispute, said he was assured by President Fujimori of Peru "that he would immediately begin the withdrawal of tanks". (Reuters)

## Ten in court

Phnom Penh: Ten men appeared in court in connection with the ambush and killing of Susan Hadden, an American tourist, and Yun Thy, her guide, in northwestern Cambodia last month. (AFP)

## MP jailed

Brussels: Jean-Pierre Van Rossem, the millionaire Belgian parliamentarian, was jailed in his absence for five years on charges of fraud. He has parliamentary immunity from arrest. (Reuters)

## 'Ritual' trial

Harare: Three people appeared in court in Masvingo, eastern Zimbabwe, on attempted murder charges after allegedly abducting a child to cut out her heart for tribal rites. (AP)

## Euthanasia law

Sydney: Marshall Perron, the Chief Minister of Australia's Northern Territory, is to introduce a bill to legalise voluntary euthanasia for terminally ill people. (Reuters)

## Burma attack

Bangkok: Troops of the Burmese military junta used artillery and small arms fire in an operation to try to crush the three remaining rebel strongholds along a stretch of the Burmese-Thai border. (AP)

## Stage star dies

Miami Beach: George Abbot, 107, the actor and director who created *Damn Yankees*, and worked in more than 120 stage shows, has died. (AFP)

Obituary, page 21

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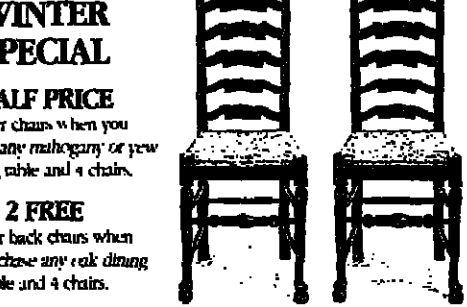
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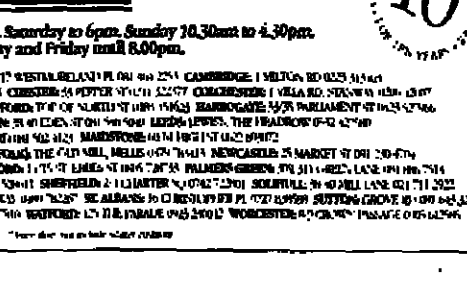
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# Clinton 'displays weakness' in plan to bolster Mexico

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

PRESIDENT CLINTON yesterday won the confidence of the markets with Tuesday's bold decision to bypass an intransigent Congress and act unilaterally to rescue the Mexican peso, but the political implications have only just begun to sink in.

The Administration trumpeted Mr Clinton's decision to assist Mexico, despite overwhelming public and congressional opposition, as a "courageous and decisive" move. His action was "courageous and decisive", said Robert Rubin, the Treasury Secretary. But critics countered that President Clinton's failure to win even the support of congressional Democrats for the \$40 billion (£25.6 billion) in loan guarantees to Mexico he had originally proposed showed his extreme political weakness.

For 18 days, Mr Clinton's top officials had paraded around Capitol Hill, warning of dire consequences for American jobs and exports if Congress refused to approve the loan guarantees. Far from diminishing opposition to the guarantees, it grew.

Equally important, Newt Gingrich and Robert Dole, the new Republican leaders of Congress who supported the guarantees, proved unwilling or unable to rally their troops either, particularly without Democratic cover. The message is that the President can no longer persuade Congress to agree with him even on issues of significant international consequence, and that populism and isolationism are now very powerful forces on Capitol Hill.

Nobody was crowing louder yesterday than Pat Buchanan, the ultimate Republican populist. He opposed "Mexico II", as Mr Clinton's contingency plan has been christened, and was elated by Congress's rejection of "Mexico I".

Medean bailout," he said: "Economic nationalism has just scored a stunning upset."

The hostility to "Mexico I" speaks eloquently of the new mood of anger and suspicion in the American heartlands. The loan guarantees would have rescued the country's third-largest trading partner at no cost to the taxpayer, but Americans were convinced the move was designed to bail out Wall Street and an incompetent foreign government. Polls showed 70 to 80 per cent of Americans opposed them. A new Congress, elected on the back of a popular revolt against the old political establishment, dutifully followed the public will.

There must now be serious doubts over Mr Clinton's ability to win congressional support for further aid to Russia, new free trade accords, the use of American troops in international peacekeeping operations, or a host of other international commitments.

For the time being, however, the President is enjoying some rare praise for his decisiveness. The consensus of the "media elite" was that he had done the right thing, and most congressmen were too relieved at avoiding a vote on such a contentious issue to do much complaining. That would, of course, change in an instant if



Buchanan: elated at defeat of "power elite"

Mr Clinton's new plan were to go wrong in a few months' time. He has defied Congress and the people, and he and his party would pay a very heavy price in the campaign for next year's presidential race.

In Mexico, euphoria swept the financial markets after Mr Clinton's move.

"It seems to be working well," said one European diplomat in Mexico City, referring to the loan package. "It has removed the uncertainty. Now the hard work is going to begin."

Mexican and American officials admitted that the bailout had come in the nick of time as Mexico, with its foreign currency reserves seriously depleted, stood dangerously close to defaulting on its large debt. "If it had not come today, I dread to think what would have happened," said one financial analyst in Mexico City.

Mexican markets surged for a second day yesterday as both the peso and the Mexico City stock exchange recovered the ground lost during a disastrous day of trading on Monday. Since the peso began its plunge before Christmas it has lost 45 per cent of its value, dropping from 3.4 against the dollar in December to Monday's record low of 6.3.

On Tuesday, the peso closed up nearly 9 per cent at 5.75, and the stock market gained 195 points, a rise of more than 10 per cent, easily its best day since the five-week crisis began. Yesterday it stood at 5.4 to the dollar in early trading.

The loans, which include a \$50 billion mix of American money, as well as large chunks of aid from the International Monetary Fund and other lending institutions, do not come without strings attached. At the very least, this will require austere financial discipline on the part of Mexico, as well as sensitive political discussions with Washington on issues such as drug control and immigration.



The prosecution at the O.J. Simpson trial projects a photograph in court showing facial injuries Nicole Brown Simpson received from the former soccer star in 1989

## O.J. Simpson jurors told of former beating incident

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN LOS ANGELES

PROSECUTORS at the O.J. Simpson trial used a 1989 beating incident to launch their case yesterday.

The first three witnesses were a police telephone operator who took Nicole Brown Simpson's call and two officers who investigated the case. Mr Simpson eventually pleaded no contest and was sentenced to probation for beating his then wife.

As giant photos of a bruised Ms Simpson were projected on a courtroom screen, Detective John Edwards told jurors that she had emerged from bushes wearing only a bra and muddy sweatpants and collapsed in his arms in the darkness, crying, "He's going to kill me!"

"I said, 'Who's going to kill you?'" recalled Mr Edwards, who was a patrol officer responding to the call. "She said, 'O.J.'"

"I said, 'O.J. who? You mean the football player?'" "She said, 'Yes, O.J. Simpson, the football player.'"

Detective Edwards described Ms Simpson's beaten face, cut left lip and bruised forehead. "She said there was two other women living in the house and that O.J. Simpson had sex with one of them prior to going to bed that night with her," Mr Edwards said, adding that he asked for no names.

He also told of a truculent Mr Simpson who emerged from the house in his bathrobe, berated his wife and fled in his blue Bentley rather than face arrest.

"He seemed very furious,"

Mr Edwards told jurors. "He said, 'I don't want that woman in my bed anymore. I've got two other women. I don't want that woman in my bed anymore.'"

Mr Simpson appeared surprised by Mr Edwards's testimony. He laughed and shook his head. In cross-examination, the defence provided the information that a maid and a nanny lived at Mr Simpson's house.

Judge Lance Ito allowed another witness, Ronald Shipp, to testify before the jury about Mr Simpson's relationship with Ms Simpson. Mr Shipp is a retired police officer.

Mr Simpson is charged with killing his ex-wife and her friend, Ron Goldman. He pleads not guilty.

## Speedy summit called to save peace process

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

IN a high-profile attempt to revive the Middle East peace process, the leaders of Israel, Egypt, Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation will hold an unprecedented four-way summit in Cairo today.

The speed and secrecy with which the meeting was organised underlined the gravity of the situation 17 months after the signing of the Israeli-PLO accord, now opposed by most Israelis. Escalating Islamic suicide attacks and expanding Jewish settlements have plunged the peace talks into a crisis that only drastic diplomatic surgery can resolve.

As details of the summit were being announced by Amr Moussa, Egypt's Foreign Minister, the Israeli Government was digesting the findings of a new Gallup Poll which showed over 67 per cent of adult Israelis favour either postponing talks with the PLO as advocated by President Weizman — or scrapping them altogether — as demanded by the opposition Likud Party.

Since last October, 54 Jews have been killed and scores wounded by Islamic suicide bombers. That includes 21 killed in the double-explosion nearly two weeks ago that has become a watershed in the peace process.

Israeli anger, which has split over into scores of right-wing street demonstrations at which Yitzhak Rabin, the Prime Minister, has been denounced as a man with "Arab blood", has been matched by fury on the Palestinian side at Israel's determination to breach the spirit of the Oslo accord by continuing with the rapid construction of thousands of new Jewish homes on occupied Arab land seized in 1967.

In addition to Mr Rabin, who yesterday clashed with his Housing Minister, Benjamin Ben-Eliezer, about the

viability of the peace process, the talks will also involve President Mubarak of Egypt, King Hussein of Jordan and Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman. It is only a week since the Jordanian and Palestinian leaders patched up deep differences with the signature of a series of political and economic accords.

After talks with Mr Mubarak in Cairo yesterday, Shimon Peres, Israel's dovish Foreign Minister, described the four leaders as "a coalition for peace" and in an obvious reference to the main absentee, President Assad of Syria — who was not invited — said that other members were free to join in the future. Mr Moussa said no invitation had been extended to Mr Assad "because we do not want to embarrass him".

Even as the four leaders will be talking about means of implementing stage two of the Israeli-PLO deal — namely Israeli troop withdrawal from much of the West Bank and the staging of delayed Palestinian elections — the security forces in Israel and Egypt will be braced for Islamic violence.

The troubled state of the Middle East peace accord has added diplomatic significance to the visit due to be paid to Israel in mid-March by John Major, only the second British Prime Minister to visit the Jewish state while in office. Senior British sources said yesterday that during the trip, now confirmed for March 12-14, Mr Major hoped to hold talks with Mr Rabin, Mr Peres and Mr Arafat.

"The visit comes at a much more difficult time both for the peace process and for internal Israeli politics than when it was first conceived," a British official said. "The original idea was to show our support for the peace moves. Who knows what will happen in the next few weeks? Mr Major may have to carry messages between the two sides."

## Bahrain deports three more Muslim clerics

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THREE more Shia Muslim clerics have been deported from Bahrain, accused of supporting Iranian-backed agitation that has led to riots and arrests, according to exiled opposition groups.

Salman al-Shakhouri, 27, was deported to Syria on Tuesday and Murtada Said Abdullah al-Hassan, 34, was deported to Lebanon on Sunday. The two were held at Bahrain airport for four days after returning from Iran. The London-based Bahrain Free-

dom Movement said a third, Abdul-Rida al-Alaali, 42, was deported to Lebanon last week.

Meanwhile, the Foreign Office yesterday said that British doctors had confirmed that Major Safa al-Battat, an Iraqi officer who fled to Britain, had been poisoned with thallium in what officials said was part of a pattern of terrorism against his own people by Saddam Hussein. Major Battat is now in a Cardiff hospital.

## Killer's lawyer claims plagiarism

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE lawyer of a notorious American serial killer is suing the best-selling writer of legal thrillers, John Grisham, for allegedly plagiarising her autobiography.

Polly Nelson published a book last year entitled *Defending the Devil* about her role in representing Ted Bundy, a good-looking law school dropout executed in Florida in 1989 after confessing to the grue-

some murder of 23 women. Ms Nelson claims that Mr Grisham's latest novel, *The Chamber*, copied plot, characters and descriptions from her memoir.

"Each tells exactly the same story — the tale of a new lawyer in an establishment law firm who, to meet her or his own personal needs, volunteers to take on the representation of the most

notorious killer on death row," Ms Nelson's lawyer wrote in a letter to Mr Grisham's publisher, Doubleday.

"Mr Grisham must have seen and studied Ms Nelson's manuscript of *The Devil* before completing *The Chamber*, Ms Nelson's lawyer claimed. Mr Grisham's lawyer called the allegations "trash", and said he would ask the judge to dismiss the case.

## Murayama recants on Japanese role in Korea split

FROM GWEN ROBINSON IN TOKYO

ANGRY protests this week in the Japanese Diet over a proposal to apologise for Japan's aggression in the Second World War have deepened the bitter debate over the issue of war guilt.

Remarks by Tomiichi Murayama, the Prime Minister, over Japan's role in the division of Korea added to the controversy on Tuesday, when he was forced to retract his earlier statement that Japan was "partly responsible" for the postwar division of the Korean peninsula.

However, following complaints by conservatives in his ruling coalition,

Mr Murayama yesterday said that Japan "bears no responsibility for Korea's division".

The history of Japan's brutal colonisation of Korea is a source of fierce argument between right and left-wing politicians and historians. Mr Murayama, who is leader of the Socialist Party, is now being criticised by rank-and-file Socialists for bending to conservative pressure.

"This hasty turnaround has reminded the Japanese that they may have a Socialist Prime Minister, but the ultra-conservatives are firmly in control," said a political commentator. In spite of the growing resistance to apologising for Japan's wartime deeds, some pacifists have called on

the Government to show contrition and even compensate victims of Japanese brutality in the war.

More than 140 conservative MPs on Tuesday formed a council to fight the proposal to issue an apology. The council constitutes nearly half the MPs in the Liberal Democratic Party, the largest member of the three-party ruling coalition. The council declared that an apology would "open the floodgates" to compensation claims.

The two themes are central to the philosophy of Shintaro Ishihara, one of the most conservative members of the LDP and author of many ultra-nationalist tracts. Mr Ishihara insists that Japan has fully dealt with all

matters related to its war records. Claims for compensation, such as the one filed in Tokyo this week by a British-led mission of former allied prisoners of war, "should not be given any legitimacy", he said.

One of Mr Ishihara's central arguments is that no other country has had to apologise for wars it fought.

"In Indonesia, until Japan started the war, the Dutch were in control for 200 years and many people were killed. Has that been forgotten? Look what Britain did in India and China among other places, but no one mentions that."



Murayama: changed statement

Leading article, page 19

## Critical human rights report sours US-Peking relations

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

RELATIONS between Peking and Washington were soured further yesterday by a US State Department report concluding that the past year had seen no improvement in China's human rights record.

The document is a setback to the Clinton Administration's 16-month policy of embracing rather than isolating China and accompanies disputes with Peking over its export of weapons technology, trade practices, and an upgrading of American contacts with Taiwan.

"In 1994, there continued to be widespread and well-documented human rights abuses in China, in violation of internationally accepted norms, stemming both from the authorities' intolerance of dissent and the inadequacy of legal safeguards for freedom of speech, association and religion," the report says. "Abuses include arbitrary

and lengthy incommunicado detention, torture and mistreatment of prisoners."

It had been a priority of the US Administration that China should open talks with Tibet's spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama. The report notes, however, that Chinese



Dalai Lama: his photo forbidden in Tibet

authorities have forbidden even the display or sale of his photograph.

The report also accused Russia of a string of rights violations, including the overuse of force in break-away Chechnya, dismal prison conditions, police beatings and cruelty towards military recruits.

Among its conclusions on other countries are: □ Iraq: An abysmal record did not improve. There were mass executions of political opponents and widespread use of torture.

□ Turkey: The human rights situation worsened, with police using torture and excessive force.

□ Iran: Abuses include arbitrary arrests and detentions, torture and killings.

□ Indonesia: Still strongly authoritarian despite a surface adherence to democratic forms.

## Russia vows to pressure UN on easing of Iraq sanctions

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA has delivered a clear message to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq that it will support lifting the five-year embargo against Baghdad when the present sanctions are due for review by the United Nations this spring.

In a move that is likely to strain Moscow's relations with Washington and London, senior figures in the Kremlin have assured an emissary of the Iraqi leader that Russia is determined that sanctions should be eased.

Saudi Mehdi Saaleh, the Iraqi Speaker of Parliament, said in Moscow yesterday that he had found widespread support for Iraq among Russian leaders during his three-day visit.

"In the course of my meetings with Russian premier Viktor Chernomyrdin and the state Duma (parliament) Speaker Ivan Rybkin, the Russian party expressed its

readiness to encourage the lifting of sanctions against Baghdad," he said. He added that the Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the Russian ultra-nationalist leader, had an open invitation to visit Iraq.

The sanctions issue is expected to come up again in April when Rolf Ekeus, the chairman of the UN Special Commission on Iraq, is due to report back on Baghdad's compliance with UN resolutions. Among the permanent members of the UN Security Council, Russia, France and China favour easing sanctions against Iraq, while Britain and the US want the embargo to stay in place.

Russia believes that Iraq has fulfilled its obligations under UN resolutions concerning the destruction and monitoring of weapons of mass destruction. Last year it persuaded Iraq officially to recognise Kuwait's sovereign-

ty and now it has offered to help Iraq clear up the final obstacle, the fate of about 300 captured Kuwaiti servicemen.

"Today Iraq has recognised all resolutions and Kuwait's borders," said Mr Rybkin. "Our position has no bitterness and we intend to help Iraq to overcome its difficult situation."

Not surprisingly, Russia stands to gain most from Iraq's return to the community of nations. Baghdad owes Moscow about £5 billion in unpaid debts. Russia has also been manoeuvring to secure a key role in the planned multi-billion-pound reconstruction programme for the oil rich nation.

Viktor Posyvalyuk, the Russian Deputy Foreign Minister, confirmed that Russia was already negotiating concrete projects for the energy industry, construction, medical services and other fields.



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# Holland on verge of catastrophe as dykes crumble

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN NIJMEGEN

THE NETHERLANDS was yesterday battling against time and a rising flood tide amid the first signs that the dykes around the river Waal were crumbling.

Ed d'Hondt, the Mayor of Nijmegen, last night put the risk of a large-scale flood catastrophe at 50 per cent. Mr d'Hondt, who co-ordinates the emergency efforts in the Gelderland region, said that "the risk will remain the same for the following days. It will depend on the climatological changes and the level of the water".

A collapse of the dykes in even one place would expose most of the country's mid-section to flooding of up to 19½ ft. The Dutch authorities yesterday extended the emergency zone for the first time to the north of the river Waal after the dyke in Ochten, twelve miles west of Nijmegen, almost collapsed. The police ordered the immediate evacuation of the 1,500 villagers, the latest in the growing number of Dutch flood refugees.

Peter Bekker, a spokesman for Nijmegen police, yesterday described the situation in Ochten as "serious, though under control". At a width of several miles, the Waal, one of the two Dutch arms of the Rhine, currently bears more resemblance to the Amazon or the Mississippi than to a continental European river. The potential for greatest damage to the environment and property remains at the south of the Waal, to the east of Nijmegen. Near the village of Ooij, a dyke began to leak, leading to the build-up of a small lake on the "dry" side.

While the dykes are all sufficiently high, the danger is from water undermining their stability from underneath. Dykes are made of sand and clay and act like a sponge, absorbing water. The longer the exposure, the greater the risk of collapse.

Emergency workers at Ooij tried to repair the crumbling dykes with sandbags, which have become scarce over the past few days. The Dutch Government also deployed

F16 fighter planes, which yesterday morning flew over the affected areas to take infra-red photographs in order to assess the extent to which the dykes are waterlogged.

Jan Roelofs, spokesman for the Nijmegen City Council, said that the outlook remained uncertain and serious, adding that the 250,000 evacuees would not be allowed to return to their homes for a week.

The villagers of Ooij left almost nothing behind when they were evacuated, except for some garden gnomes in their front gardens. Marcel Willemsen, the village administrator, said that there was no point in shifting furniture to upper floors since a flood

house was already a foot under water. "I have nowhere else to go, with all my animals," she said. She denied that she was in any danger, an assertion that was strongly contested by Mr Bekker and the Dutch police, who are furious with anybody who has disobeyed the evacuation order.

One official yesterday gave the statistical probability of a dyke collapse as one in 50 years for an old-fashioned dyke, such as those in Ochten, Wamel or Ooij, compared to one in 1,250 years for a modern dyke. Wim Kok, the Dutch Prime Minister, said that the Government may have to consider a programme to reinforce the dykes to bring them up to modern safety standards, a programme that could take over a decade to implement.

The dykes are the only protection the Dutch have against flooding. The cause of the disaster lies upstream, in the hills of Germany and in the Alps, where unusually mild weather has led to an excessive melt of snow.

The flood has already given rise to cross-border recriminations. Annemarie Jourisma, the Dutch Transport Minister, said on German radio yesterday that "part of the problem is that the flow of the Rhine has been changed through building work". Experts believe that the speed of the floods has been increased because rivers have been "straightened" in certain sections.

The Dutch estimate the cost of the disaster at between £800 million and £1.2 billion.

Brussels: The European Commission agreed yesterday to increase its immediate aid to flood victims to 1.5 million euros (£1.1 million). Nikolaus van der Pas, a Commission spokesman, said the aid, an increase of 1.2 million euros on money already pledged, would be directed towards the Red Cross. The Commission had also agreed to study how to deal with cross-border problems such as flooding, and was looking at other ways of helping. (Reuter)



Kok: plan to improve standards of dykes

would submerge all the houses in the village up to their chimneys.

Like most of his compatriots, Mr Willemsen confronted the threat of the flood and the trauma of the evacuation of his family with stoicism. He said that, in a country of which 75 per cent is below sea level, "people have been getting used to the dangers of the water. We always had faith in our dykes, and we still do," he said.

Further west, in the village of Wamel, a handful of men and women defied the evacuation orders and stayed behind. One of them, Sophia Bevelot, 44, lives in a small house with three dogs, three cats and two goats. The ground floor of her



Royal concern: Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands visits the flood-stricken city of Venlo yesterday to learn at first hand of residents' plight

## Deluge tests faith of God-fearing farmers

*The windmills have gone, the dykes are failing, the exodus is well under way. Roger Boyes, at Millingen on the Dutch-German border, witnesses a community trying to cope as the menacing waters rise*

THE Mayor of Millingen is beginning to feel like the captain of the *Mary Celeste*. The 5,000 inhabitants of Thea de Roos van Rooden's village, close to a crumbling dyke, have fled in a caravan of panic, pianos strapped to car roofs and budgetary cages bouncing in the laps of weeping children.

Now there is just Mrs van Rooden, as pale and proud as a pioneer wife, her skeleton staff manning the telephone exchange and, outside the town hall, the toing and froing of police patrols who insist that every visitor carries a pass.

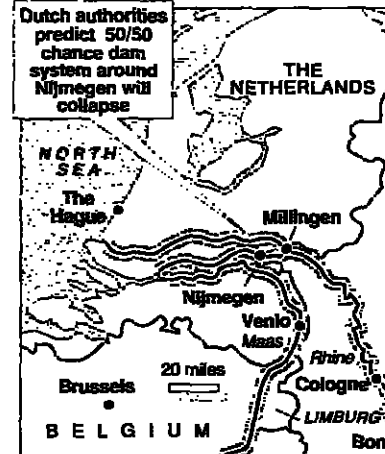
Looters are feared, especially by the elderly who are now camping out in school gymnasiums in Nijmegen and Arnhem.

Europe's borders were supposed to open up this year, but not in quite such a graphic, miserable way. "If dykes break and the floods come," says Mrs van Rooden, "you can be sure it will not stop at the frontier". Millingen is only a few miles from Germany, a green border that may soon turn liquid. The local problem is the national one (and indeed may soon gain a European dimension). The medieval dyke in Kekerdom near by holds back the strong, brown and treacherous Waal river.

The gardens of Millingen, usually so carefully cultivated, already resemble bath tubs. Water, pushed by the force of the river, has seeped below the dyke and weakened this one and only

defence against flooding. From the top of the Kekerdom dyke you can gauge the impact if the wall should fracture: the water would gush over the red-tiled roofs, to a level of 16-20 ft. Not much of the fine oak furniture carried to attics over the past days would survive. It is enough to see the damage already wrought higher up the Rhine in Cologne, where relatively mild flooding has crippled the embankment community. Oil heaters leak into the yellow sludge; electric connections are a hazard; lives are disoriented. All this, perhaps more, awaits the polder lands between the lower Rhine, the Waal and the Maas.

"Cows and pigs first," reads an instruction pinned to a shed in Millingen. That sets out priorities for the local community. This land was drained — 100,000 windmills once straddled the polder, propelling water out of the soggy ground, down canals and into the rivers — for farmers, and a God-fearing farmers' terrain it has remained. Cows have not only to be drily housed but also milked. For days the Dutch-German border roads have



been choked by livestock transporters. German farmers have offered to look after cattle and have even sent their own trucks. Robert Mulders, a German farmer from Bimmen, just across the border from Millingen, has sent his drivers to help out the Dutch livestock farmers. "Why not? The worse thing that can happen to the

vehicles is that they get a bit wet." Churches outside the immediate danger zone are packed with people at prayer. I found a priest praying in a strange church. He was forced to leave his own parish church in Maas village — "I took the Virgin Mary with me but I left St Lambertus to look after himself — his picture is probably high enough to escape the floods."

The cardinal of Utrecht has called for nationwide prayers. But will the dykes really be able to resist the colossal force that is building up in the rivers? Most dykes should have been modernised and secured after the floods at Christmas 1993. The only movement has been the establishment of a commission to work out how to deepen and broaden the Maas river.

The Dutch response to the crisis is in sharp contrast to the Germans. The German relationship to nature is bound up with their national identity: rivers, in particular the Rhine, have symbolised continuity and times of political division. Now Germans are wondering whether they have not paid too high a price for progress — too many marshes have been drained for building land, industrial canals have been dug, the rivers corseted in cement and the rain-absorbing forests allowed to die. The German response seems to be a swing of sympathy towards the Greens, the one party unambiguously committed to natural conservation.

## Brittan wins Euro promotion and pay rise

BY MICHAEL BINYON  
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE Foreign Office yesterday warmly welcomed the nomination of Sir Leon Brittan, the senior British commissioner in Brussels, as one of two new vice-presidents of the new Santer Commission. He was chosen by secret ballot among

the 20 commissioners and won the most votes.

The promotion will bring him a pay rise of £12,000 on top of his £130,000 salary, and will also add to the weight and prestige of a commissioner who has been one of the most active and respected since he took up his job in Brussels. The other vice-president cho-

sen yesterday was Manuel Marín of Spain.

Before the Maastricht treaty, the large EU member states with two commissioners were each entitled to nominate the senior as a vice-president, and Sir Leon held that title, but this was dropped in 1993. His new appointment is seen in Brussels as a compensation

for the rebuff he suffered when he failed to get the East European portfolio in the reshuffle of Commission jobs late last year. He threatened to resign in protest, but was persuaded by the Government to stay in Brussels with the rump function of running the EU's trade relations with the developed world.

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## Princess secrecy costs job

FROM JAMES BONE  
IN NEW YORK

THE visit by the Princess of Wales to a paediatric Aids ward in New York has claimed the hospital's chief publicist as a casualty.

Pamela Hamilton was warned by the secret service to keep the visit secret and took the instruction so seriously that she omitted to tell New York's Mayor and other top officials about it.

Even the city's health department chief learnt about it only when he turned on the late-night television news. To make matters worse, he had spent the day in Washington with the director of the Harlem hospital to collect a prize on its behalf.

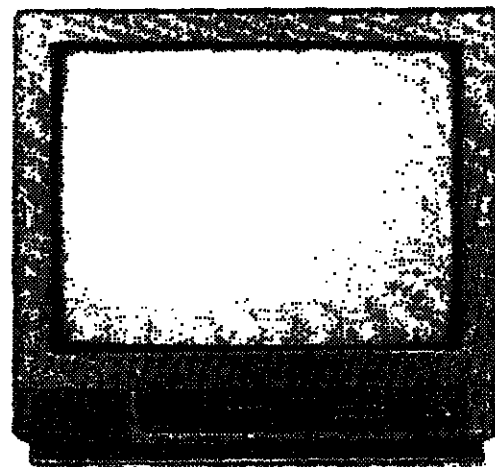
Despite Ms Hamilton's carefully kept secret, about 40 reporters turned up outside the hospital, which the Princess first toured in 1989. Ms Hamilton was promptly dismissed when Bruce Siegel, president of the city's health department, received a curt call from the Mayor's office asking why he had not been alerted to the Princess's plans.

Health department sources said yesterday was not the first time Ms Hamilton had failed to keep city officials properly informed, but her latest gaffe was "the straw that broke the camel's back". But a health department spokeswoman insisted: "This termination is not about Her Royal Highness's visit to Harlem hospital. In fact, we're extremely honoured that she chose to visit Harlem hospital."

The Princess's first, well-publicised, visit to the hospital was praised for helping to break down public suspicions about Aids patients.

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From the one London school to win praise from the inspectors comes a simple message — poor teaching is just a waste of time

## Lesson one from the Graveney bible

The bad news is that about a quarter of lessons in state schools are still awful. As far back as I can remember, the inspectors' annual report on the state of the nation's schools has concluded that about a quarter of lessons are a complete waste of time: roughly the same number of children go on having their time wasted, it seems, no matter how many reforms and upheavals you throw at the education system. So where, you may ask, is the good news?

The good news is simply that the new Chief Inspector is at last focusing on the right target, which is poor teaching. It may take him a while to improve the aim of his inspectors, many of whom are as woolly-minded as the teachers he is complaining about, but that's another story.

The main thing that interests Chris Woodhead is not whether a teaching method is progressive or traditional, but whether it works. Let us be optimistic, and assume the educational powers that be are on the threshold of a new Utilitarian Era.

After talking to Carolyn Evans, deputy head of the only inner-

London school to feature in Ofsted's list of 52 schools that offer shining examples of improvement, I felt much encouraged. (It is discouraging, to put it mildly, that Graveney School, in Wandsworth, should be the only comprehensive in the entire capital to feature in

### The head doesn't give a damn for educational labels

the list, but that again is another story.)

Miss Evans, like the average literate parent, accepts the dictionary definition of didactic as "having the character or manner of a teacher". You don't get bogged down in dotty staffroom arguments about how to teach without being didactic at Graveney, Miss Evans, again like the average

parent, doesn't give a damn whether a method is labelled progressive or traditional so long as it works. This is judged by whether, at the end of a lesson, the children are able to "write down, in good English which says what it means, what the teacher meant them to learn in the course of that lesson". And the chances are, she says, that you will need to use a variety of methods in order to keep them all concentrating throughout an hour's lesson.

Simple common sense? Well no, there is more than common sense in the teacher's bible at Graveney, a little booklet called *What Makes a Good Lesson?* that was devised by and for the staff just over three years ago. It is the main reason why the school has managed during that time almost to double the proportion of pupils achieving five or more good GCSE grades. This now stands at 49 per cent. I should like to give you the guts of it, because it clarifies what the inspectors mean by good teaching.



MARGOT NORMAN

For all their good intentions, the language they use in their reports makes it damnably difficult for us parents to see what they are getting at.

The two key concepts are leadership and structure. Point number one is that the teacher's job is to lead the class and control the children's learning. (This is by no means obvious to all those teachers whose training colleges drummed it into them that their job was to be led by the children's interests, even if that meant going in 30 different directions simulta-

neously). Point number two is that the teacher must plan the complete structure of each lesson before she starts, leaving not more than five minutes or so to follow up extraneous points raised by the children.

"There simply isn't time to do otherwise," says Miss Evans. "You've got so much to get through that you have to start by planning your programme for the year, and then for the term and week, and then lesson by lesson."

Teachers who bend over backwards to be flexible and up losing so much time that they are trying to cram the year's syllabus into the last six weeks. There is a body of knowledge that the children have to acquire and understand, and it is your job to keep them on course and get them through it."

Each teacher's lesson plans are discussed and refined in regular departmental meetings. Everyone is expected to be clear about what knowledge and what skills each lesson aims to convey, and to tell the children at the start of each

lesson: "We will be learning about so and so today. First we'll watch a video, and then I want you to do some written work answering questions on such and such."

It is presumed that two or three activities, almost always including written work, will be needed to

### Nobody gets bogged down in dotty arguments

keep the attention of 30 children for an hour. The pace has to vary, the momentum to be kept up. Group work is sometimes useful, but only if you check that it is supporting individual learning.

(For example, when teaching Roosevelt's New Deal, Miss Evans divided her class into groups, who enjoyed pretending to be presidential advisers. She didn't let them go

home, though, without a quick burst of individual questions all round.)

The day's homework is written into the lesson plan, and is not just a matter of finishing what everyone was doing when the bell went. Compulsory after-school and Saturday morning sessions are arranged for children who are falling behind. There are holiday revision classes. Senior staff randomly scoop up whole sets of their colleagues' books to check that marking is being done properly. If anyone says he or she is having trouble getting a certain topic across to a particular class, the head of department gives either detailed advice or a demonstration lesson.

This school sounds like the sort of place that does not believe in wasting anybody's time. Sure, the teachers do a lot of preparation, but they are not expected to spend hours messing about with the photocopier [they get good textbooks instead].

If your child's time is being wasted at school, you could do worse than obtain a copy of a Graveney bible and pass it to the head.

## Search for a saint

Could Thomas Becket's bones still lie at Canterbury? Walter Ellis reports on an enduring mystery

Imagine if the bones of Thomas Becket, said to have been burnt and scattered to the winds at the height of the Reformation, were to be found. Imagine what the Pope might say. Imagine what those praying fervently for the conversion of England would say. If those bones could be enshrined once more in Canterbury Cathedral, mother church of the Anglican Communion, it could be a key moment in the Catholic revival.

A forthcoming book, *The Quest for Becket's Bones* (Yale University Press), by John Butler, Professor of Health Service Studies at the University of Kent at Canterbury, does not pretend to resolve the controversy over what happened to Becket's remains in 1538, when Thomas Cromwell and his King's Commissioners, acting for Henry VIII, entered the great cathedral intent on desecration, vandalism and theft.

Butler does, however, examine in detail the possibility that the bones may still exist — their exact location known only to a small and determined group of the faithful — and might at some point be restored to their former honour.

The professor, a practising Methodist, harbours no personal inclination to kneel before the holy clasp or sacred scapula of Becket, still less his shattered skull. His research has been fired by intellectual curiosity and love of a good detective story, not Catholic piety. But he has, he confesses, "a profound respect for the impact this form of worship has had on people down the centuries", and he acknowledges Becket, 825 years after his death, as "a hugely charismatic figure in the imagination of the western world".

The question is, could the martyr's magic work a second time? The 38th Archbishop of Canterbury, murdered in his cathedral on the evening of December 29, 1170, was for nearly 400 years the most revered saint in Christendom. The almost stylised circumstances of his death — his loud refusal to bow to the secular dictates of Henry II and his dreadful murder by a group of unscrupulous knights who hacked at his skull, caused him to be venerated like no other saint, before or since.

Millions of the faithful throughout the late Middle Ages believed that St Thomas's mortal remains had been



A drawing of the burial of the murdered Thomas Becket from an English psalter, circa 1200 (English Library)

invested with miraculous healing powers, and the resulting mass of pilgrims, celebrated so vividly by Chaucer, brought fame and fortune to the See of Canterbury.

Not everyone was pleased. The Catholic Church, so long as it remained supreme, drew strength, and profit, from the saint's bearing and fortune. But with the Reformation, Anglican prelates, jealous of their position, began to see in Thomas a powerful symbol of the old order, both heretical and dangerous.

At the same time, the Crown, and those who looked to it for their own advancement, saw in the cult of Becket a potential focus for civil disobedience. He had defied the state and become a hero of the common people. The bones that drew pious crowds could also, it was feared, serve as a rallying point for treachery.

### 'If the bones are discovered, Pope John Paul II would doubtless wish to attend the consecration of a rebuilt shrine to his memory'

Henry VIII, set on imposing his own authority as head of the English Church, spared no effort to discredit Becket, and Cromwell proved a master of propaganda. Instead of "the holy blissful martyr", the murdered saint became "a rebel who fled the realm to France and to the Bishop of Rome to procure the abrogation of wholesome laws".

Sceptics are bound to argue that this was all a long time ago, that times have changed and that the legend of Thomas Becket is just that — a splendid story, largely irrelevant to our own times. Religious leaders see things differently.

Dr John Simpson, the Dean of Canterbury, believes that the persecution of Christians in different parts of the world this century has reawakened interest in Becket. The annual ceremony in the cathedral commemorating his murder, which attracted just a handful of worshippers when it was restored 30 years ago, was, he says, packed out last month, with many foreign visitors coming specifically to pray at the altar where he died.

Professor Butler looks at the possibilities with a cool, yet sympathetic eye. He recounts the persecution of Christians in different parts of the world this century has reawakened interest in Becket. The annual ceremony in the cathedral commemorating his murder, which attracted just a handful of worshippers when it was restored 30 years ago, was, he says, packed out last month, with many foreign visitors coming specifically to pray at the altar where he died.

occupied one of two anonymous graves in the floor of the rebuilt structure. He even recounts the tale of how two former French legionnaires were arrested outside the cathedral in 1990 during an abortive attempt to break open the tomb of a French cardinal and reveal it as Becket's current resting place.

What he cannot do, in spite of his efforts, is overturn the "official" version of what actually happened in 1538. Then, according to various accounts, Thomas Cromwell, acting on the instructions of his royal master, had Becket's bones removed from their ransacked shrine and burned to ashes. So determined was the Lord Privy Seal to obliterate all memory of the "traitor" Becket that he may even have had what was left after burning fired from a cannon on the city walls.

Dean Simpson, a keen admirer of Professor Butler's efforts, rejects his hinted-at conclusion. "Had the bones not been destroyed, I think we could have expected them to be produced during the reign of Mary Tudor, a fervent Catholic, and the truth is that nothing happened at all."

## The actresses who never grow old

Why do female French stars remain eternally alluring, wonders Charles Bremner, while others fade?

Quick. Name some current French actors who are not Gérard Philipe. The chances are that once past Delon, Belmondo and perhaps Trintignant and Nolree, all of them in their fifties and sixties, you have to pause for a moment.

The same does not apply if you think of the women. The French Government may be busy these days with a futile battle to fend off the hegemony of Hollywood, but when it comes to female star power, the Gallic cinema is out-dazzling the Americans as rarely before.

A short list is enough to convey the point. It could run from Isabelle Adjani through Juliette Binoche to Carole Bouquet, Isabelle Huppert and Catherine Deneuve. True, the global masses do not flock to their movies as they do to those of the Schwarzeneggers, the Disneys and dinosaurs. In the department of raw exhibition, Sharon Stone probably stirs more heat. But as the incarnation of grace, beauty and seductiveness, the present stable of working French actresses sets the standard.

The new ascendancy of the French actress is causing waves even among Latin nations with their own traditions of pulchritude and little time for their chauvinist northern neighbour. Italy's *L'Espresso* magazine devotes lavish space this week to what it calls the erotic renaissance which is being wrought on the French cinema by its female talent.

While *L'Espresso* cannot be reproached for its awe over such young beauties as Sophie Marceau (last in *D'Artagnan's Daughter*) or Vanessa Paradis, the Lolita whose latest vehicle, *Eliza*, opens this week, it can be faulted for missing the most striking aspect of the phenomenon. This is that the most bewitching of this flock of knock-outs are all *femmes d'un certain age*.

All the vedettes on the above shortlist are in their fourth, fifth and, in the case of grandmother Deneuve, their sixth decade. Adjani, the sublime recluse who is drawing global audiences as the blood-stained sexual predator in *La Reine Margot*, turns 40 this year. Huppert, who lends elegant class to *Amateur*, is 42. Bouquet, who made her name as a sexy bourgeoisie in *Bunuel's That Obscure Object of Desire* in 1977, is turning 38. Her image of the drop-dead Parisienne now features in the adverts for Chanel No 5, directed by Roman Polanski.

Binoche, last seen in English with Jeremy Irons in *Damage*, is the baby at mere 31. The roll-call need hardly stop there. Take, for example Fanny Ardant. Still the object of male reverie at the age of 45, she has just opened as the mistress in a Marguerite Duras play at a Montparnasse theatre after starring in *Le Colonel Chabert* with Depardieu. Then there is Anouk Aimée, heroine of Claude Lelouch's sizzling icon *Un Homme et Une Femme*.

She was signed up as Ungaro's face in her fifties and can be seen as ravishing as ever at a near unbelievable 62 in Agnès Varda's new *Monsieur Cinéma*. And of course Jeanne Moreau, the doyenne, is still seductive at 66. Of the great stars, only Bardot, 60, who gave up films two decades ago in favour of animals, has failed to keep her looks.

The potent charms of these *femmes mûres* only underlines the injustice of the treatment

even Meryl Streep is kept to the character parts or plays fading actresses obsessed with her lost youth, as she did in *Death Becomes Her*. Sally Field, 48, is doing fine as a nice mother, latterly in *Mrs Doubtfire*. At 40, the hot-blooded Kathleen Turner gets parts as comically voracious vamps, as in last year's *Naked in New York*.

When Susan Sarandon, 47, was given the part of the sexy lawyer in *The Client* last year, the novelty sent the media musing on menopause, danger and desire. And we will not forget Isabella Rossellini's removal as Lancôme's icon, mainly because of the age-obsessed American market.

There is no mystery behind all this. French women imbibe the arts of femininity with their mother's milk and are convinced they are free from the cultural complexes that afflict their northern and transatlantic sisters. According to Elisabeth Badinter, a leading feminist, *les anglo-saxons* are hobbled with a Puritan culture which regards women as mothers. "In France we have other references to evoke womanhood. I have the feeling that Frenchmen are less frightened of women," she says.

The Latin countries and France in particular, see age and experience as an enhancement to mystery and seductiveness. Not for nothing does Emma Bovary remain one of the most alluring figures in French fiction.

Régis Wargnier, who directed Deneuve in *Indochine*, says: "We give more chances to a woman in her fifties to seduce people. We don't just decide, 'You're 45, 50. You're a nice woman but you can't be seductive any more.' We allow older women to have love affairs."

This is not to say that French actresses do not care about their wrinkles. As Deneuve herself said the other day: "Women who say they do not give a hoot about age are women who lie."

In France, too, femininity is appreciated by men. Though 78 and ailing, President Mitterrand waxes lyrical on the charms of his colleagues. He noted the other day that Edith Cresson, 61, whom he appointed prime minister and is now serving as a Brussels commissioner, was not merely competent but also enjoyed "the bonus of her beauty".

Imagine the lynch mob that would descend on John Major or Bill Clinton if they ventured a similar thought.



Ageless: Deneuve (top) and Adjani

which Hollywood inflicts on its female stars when the big four-oh heaves over their horizon and the third face-lift sags. No one raises an eyebrow as Newman, Nicholson and Beatty exercise their prowess with babes who could be their daughters. But while Deneuve voted the epitome of beauty last month, glides on as the impossible enchantress at 51, the Americans banish their ladies over the hill until they can safely come back as matrons.

Sissy Spacek (44), Jessica Lange (45) and Jill Clayburgh (49) rarely get work. At 45,

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Lithium and the control of manic depression □ Treating osteoporosis in men □ How fruit and vegetables can keep you breathing

WHEN giving evidence to the Nolan Committee, Tom King lamented the change in the personality of the average MP which he had witnessed during his time in Parliament. However, even in the past, not all members were motivated by a desire to serve their constituencies and country, and in some cases even these praiseworthy ambitions must have concealed some deep psychological flaw.

Even 25 years ago, when I was an MP, a few would not have been out of place in a psychiatric outpatients' clinic. One member, now dead, of questionable maturity and emotional stability was a gun enthusiast. When I was sitting beside him on the back-benches one day, he surprised me by demonstrating the truth of his boast that he frequently carried a gun, in a concealed shoulder holster, into the chamber.

Another member usually sat hunched, morose and depressed, a silent loner on the back-bench. He, however, also had moods of great activity and verbosity when his

actions became unpredictable but when his vitality could dominate a meeting. This member showed every symptom of manic depression, known in the current jargon as a bi-polar affective disorder, somebody whose mood alternates between unwarrantable depression and overactive jollity, often associated with a lack of judgment.

In most people these troubles can result in a life of torment if the underlying condition is not properly treated. Lithium has proved to be the drug of choice for the treatment of manic depressive

## Radical mood swings



MEDICAL BRIEFING  
Dr Thomas Stuttford

states. It is not only frequently useful in treating otherwise intractable depression, but it tames out the mood swings which can devastate the patient's own life and that of those around them.

The use of lithium is not without its problems: the secret of its successful use is the regular monitoring of the lithium level in the blood. Most doctors recommend that this should be done at monthly intervals. It should certainly not be left for more than three months without checking. The blood must be collected 12 hours after a dose has

been taken. Before starting on lithium treatment, and periodically thereafter, kidney and cardiac function must be assessed and a regular check kept on thyroid function.

Recently, a man who had been taking lithium for many years was thought by his doctor to have also developed Parkinson's disease. The fine tremor he normally endured had become a gross shake, his movements so disorganised that when eating his aim was as chaotic and no better directed than a two-year-old's.

Finally as a result of his staggering gait, he fell down his ancestral stairs. Thereafter, a lithium blood check showed the levels were far too high, and this was accounting for his shake, his uncoordination, nausea, diarrhoea, thirst and a frequency of urination.

Dr Mike Read, writing in a recent *Update* magazine, lists the difficulties of lithium treatment. Patients of lithium need a high fluid intake so as not to become dehydrated, and should be wary of excessive sweating whether from exertion or fever. Care is needed when taking diuretics, and salt intake needs monitoring.

## Broken bones

OSTEOPOROSIS is usually thought of as a disease of menopausal women, and over the past 30 years great progress has been made in its detection, prevention with HRT, and treatment.

Although the classic picture of an osteoporotic patient is that of a little old woman, thinning bones and spontaneous crush fractures of the vertebrae aren't confined to women. In a recent review of male osteoporosis in *Geriatric Medicine*, two Newcastle doctors, Dr Roger Francis, a senior lecturer in medicine, and Dr Fraser Anderson, the Action Research training fellow at the Freeman hospital, estimate that on average every GP in Britain will be looking after 14 men with osteoporosis.

When the burly second row forward or rowing blue, who used to tower over college roomies, reaches his late sixties or seventies he frequently shrinks to a less intimidating height. Many of the

causes of osteoporosis in men are inevitable but some, for instance alcoholism or inertia, can be avoided; others such as malabsorption or steroid therapy can be modified. The Newcastle doctors report also suggests that as well as providing pain relief, doctors should consider prescribing intermittent cyclical estradiol-calcium therapy (Didronel PMO) therapy.

Advice is available from the National Osteoporosis Society, PO Box 10, Radstock, Bath BA3 3YB (01761 47171).

## Clear lungs

A FORTNIGHT ago, *Pulse*, a magazine for GPs, reported that the number of children suffering from bronchitis had been unusually high. Adults, too, have now caught it, chest infections are widespread.

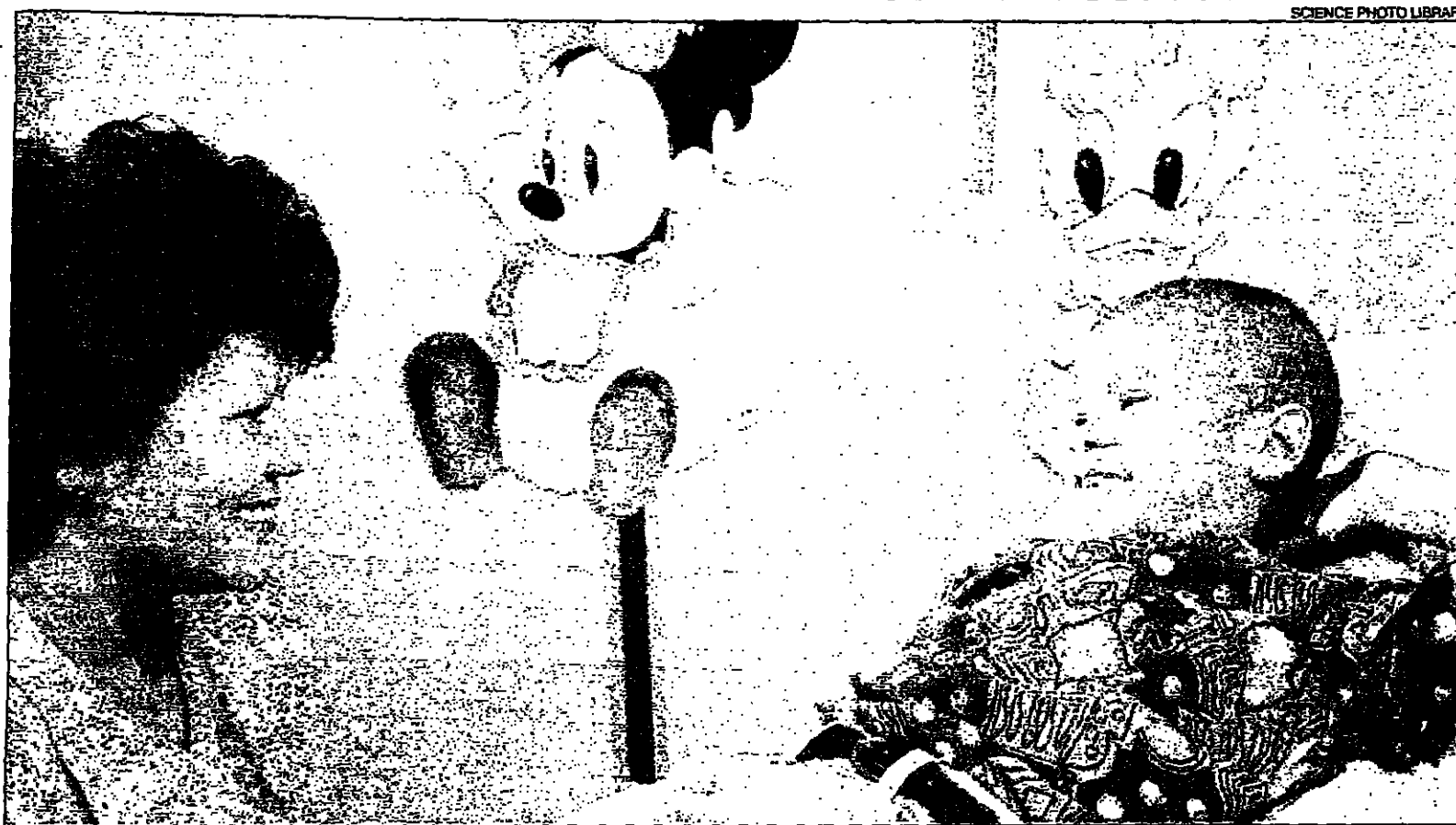
The infection is not, contrary to what the patients may feel, a true influenza for their symptoms are the result either of infection with one of the respiratory syncytial viruses (RSV), or from an epidemic

of *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*. The difference is not only academic for *M. pneumoniae* is a bacterial infection which responds to antibiotics. If the symptoms are either persistent or severe, an antibiotic should be prescribed. Conversely, in cases of influenza or RSV, the organism is viral and antibiotics are useful only in treating secondary bacterial infection.

Recent research has shown that adults most at risk of suffering lasting damage from bronchitis are patients with pre-existing lung or heart disease, or those who have had three or more attacks of bronchitis in the previous winter. Both of these groups need antibiotics sooner rather than later.

Patients should take note of a recent editorial in the *British Medical Journal*, which reports on the beneficial relationship between a diet rich in vegetables and fruit and obstructive lung disease.

It seems that the natural antioxidant vitamins beta carotene, vitamins C and E not only help to protect against malignant disease, heart disease and some degenerative conditions of the eye, but also have a role in keeping lungs working efficiently.



A young patient undergoing chemotherapy — nearly 75 per cent of children with leukaemia now survive five years, after which they can be considered cured

As a medical student back in the mid-1960s, Tim Eden recalls being told by the paediatric consultant in his hospital that the treatment of children with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL) was unethical. Certainly, a combination of steroids and three anti-cancer drugs could, by knocking out the leukaemic cells in the bone marrow, induce a remission of the disease.

But this was inevitably followed by a relapse and no child had ever survived more than two years. This short-lived remission was bought for too high a cost of drugs toxicity. It was better to do nothing.

Twenty-five years on, Tim Eden is now Professor of Paediatric Haematology in Manchester and chairs the Medical Research Council's (MRC) leukaemia treatment programme. Their most recent trial, published a fortnight ago in *The Lancet*, reveals that nearly 75 per cent of children with ALL should now survive

## A cure for the incurables

Dr James Le Fanu reports on a British trial that has given hope to young leukaemia patients

five years, after which they can be considered to be cured. There are other "incurable" diseases that have become curable over the past quarter century, but ALL is unique in the manner by which this has been achieved. There has been no single wonder drug of fundamental new discovery. Rather, success has depended entirely on paediatricians participating in the most sustained and complex series of medical experiments ever conducted in this country.

The story begins in 1962 at St Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, where Dr Dan Pinkel had been performing autopsies on children who had relapsed after treatment of their leukaemia.

He found the brain tissue to be massively infiltrated with leukaemic cells and interpreted this as meaning that the brain was a sanctuary where anti-cancer drugs could not penetrate. Relapse was therefore inevitable unless it was possible to knock out the cells by irradiating the brain. This would carry enormous risks and there would be no way to predict the scale of resulting damage to the intellectual and emotional lives of the young children.

But the gamble worked and in 1971 Dr Pinkel was able to report that out of 37 children treated with the new regime, eight were still alive five years later — a success rate of just under 25 per cent.

It was the first glimmer of hope that this childhood cancer might be curable, but to improve on these results required finding the answer to a number of questions. What was the best combination of drugs to induce the remission? How should they be given? At what dosages, and when?

In 1971, the MRC agreed to co-ordinate the formidable task and the first trial was

launched under the acronym Ukall. Over the subsequent decades there were six further trials, Ukall II to VII, in which different anti-cancer drugs at varying dosages were compared with each other.

Despite the enormous effort involved, there was no improvement in the number of children cured over that which Dr Pinkel had originally achieved. In addition, it was becoming apparent that the damage to the brain from the radiation markedly reduced the IQ of the children who did survive.

In 1980, with the launch of Ukall VIII, a decision was made to change tack and enormously intensify the dosage and scheduling of the drugs to the maximum that could be tolerated. This would effectively wipe out the body's defence mechanisms, making the children particularly susceptible to virulent infections. "At the beginning it was very scary," Professor Eden says. "For the first time children were dying not of their disease but as a direct result of the treatment."

After a year, however, it became clear that with skilled nursing children could be supported through this initial very stormy phase and, with the publication of the results of this trial in 1986, the aggressive approach proved to have been justified. Survival rates leapt by 20 per cent.

Since then two further trials elaborating on the methods of intensification of treatment have brought yet further improvement in survival — up to the 75 per cent reported in *The Lancet* a fortnight ago.

Professor Eden says: "We have the 'luxury' of being able to examine the long-term effects of treatment on the health of the children we have cured." High on the list of priorities is to assess whether an alternative to irradiating the brain by instilling the anti-cancer drug methotrexate into the spinal fluid might eradicate the lurking leukaemic cells without causing intellectual impairment.

These vital questions cannot be answered without more trials and the next Ukall is already being planned. However, an unanticipated problem has arisen. "The higher our success rate in curing leukaemia, the more difficult it will become to persuade parents that their children should take part in these trials where they are randomly allocated to one schedule of treatment or another," Professor Eden points out.

Paradoxically, the trials may eventually become victims of their own success. Then parents will start insisting that their children be given the best available treatment. The great scientific experiment that has defined what that should be, will be over.

The battle between smokers and tobacco companies has acquired a different flavour. Nigel Hawkes reports

Do smokers have a case against the tobacco companies? We may soon know, thanks to the action of the Legal Aid Board, which has bravely — some would say foolishly — granted legal aid to a disgruntled group of them. The money will allow 200 people who complain that smoking has damaged their health to investigate whether there are grounds for action.

There are millions of smokers, many of whom would be only too pleased to join in. If a case is brought and won, the tobacco companies could easily be bankrupted, not to mention the legal-aid system. But experience in America suggests that the smokers face an uphill battle.

Tobacco companies there have yet to pay a cent to a personal-injury plaintiff because they have argued successfully in court that people choose to smoke. In at least 700 actions since the 1950s, the cigarette-makers have demonstrated both the depth of their pockets and an apparently endless supply of legal stratagems in preserving their winning streak.

Now, however, the plaintiffs have taken a fresh tack. Congressional hearings last year heard evidence that smoking is addictive, and that the companies knew but declined to do anything about it. Amid claims that success would mean a \$100 billion settlement, five people then sought approval from a New Orleans court to turn their suit into a "class action" on behalf of thousands of smokers. Judgment is still awaited.

The companies' defence is to point out that half of all smokers manage to give up, demonstrating that smoking is a voluntary activity. But they could face problems if the plaintiffs can show that the companies deliberately controlled nicotine levels to keep smokers hooked.

This is the thrust of the case being prepared in Britain. Martyn Day, of the solicitors Leigh Day, says that by the early 1960s it was clear that tar in cigarettes was causing health damage, and that nicotine was addictive. "Under common law manufacturers have a duty to minimise risk to their customers, and they should have done so by reducing both tar and nicotine," he says.

The key date is 1962, when the Royal College of Physicians published the first of its reports on the dangers of smoking. Sir Richard Doll, the

## When no one gives up



Cigarette-makers say people choose to smoke

Professor Richard Day, a lawyer from Northeastern University School of Law in Boston, says that he detects "a very different flavour" in the latest actions against the cigarette companies in the US. "The earlier actions, which were lost, were launched by small law firms without much money for investigations. The latest actions have sophisticated lawyers, and they're well funded," he says. He expects the Louisiana court to rule in favour of a class action, in which case there will be all to play for.

Martyn Day, who has already made visits to the US to consult lawyers there, will be watching progress closely. But if the tobacco companies lose, what comes next? Suits against the distillers over cirrhosis of the liver? Or an action against the dairy industry by heart-disease sufferers? The Legal Aid Board may have set a monster in motion. In a world where everybody is a victim, there is no shortage of cases to argue.

care will you

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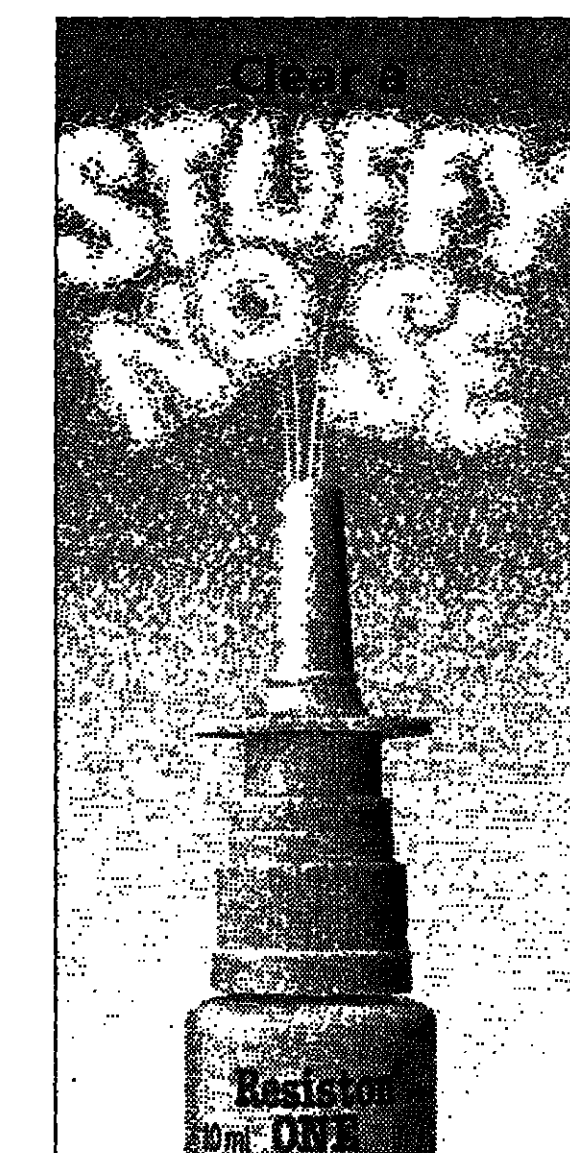
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## Janet Daley



**Private operators may recognise that more frequent and reliable trains would attract more custom**

Let me get this straight. In order for the new rail franchise holders to improve services, it is necessary to reduce the minimum number of trains they are required to run. To put it another way: you cannot get more service than you have at present without asking for less. To which the nation may well chorus, "Why ever not?" The explanation seems to come courtesy of Lewis Carroll. Lowering the statutory minimum number of trains that must be run on a privatised line will allow a new owner "space" to improve the service.

Indeed it will. It will allow more space on the far side of the minimum to count as improving the service. (If you must guarantee only one train an hour, then running two qualifies as improving on the minimum standard by 100 per cent.) But for all this hypothetical double-talk, I cling to some shred of hope over the privatisation of the railway — perhaps because it seems the only way to rescue train travel from the fate to which it has been condemned by political short-sightedness and trade-union nihilism. The Government has only just grasped the truth which transport planners have known for a generation: that building more roads attracts more drivers and thus increases traffic density. But it still seems wholly incapable of applying the same logic to the train service.

If you increase the number of trains, you will attract more customers. By cutting back the service, you drive more and more people away from rail transport, thus making even the running of a reduced service more uneconomic.

Just as there is not a fixed number of car-users, who can be distributed more widely over a larger road network, there is no fixed number of train passengers. Given a more comprehensive and reliable service, more people will travel by rail. With luck, some commercial operators might actually see that there is an enormous market demand to be exploited.

The deterioration of my local train service is a good example of this self-defeating policy of perverse contraction. When we moved to our present home, 14 years ago, the railway that runs from suburban Hertfordshire into the city had only recently been electrified. Trains ran at 20-minute intervals through the day and every ten minutes at peak times. They also ran — more conveniently from King's Cross after 5pm — through the night at hourly intervals. (There was only one two-hour gap, as I recall, from 2am to 4am.) What this meant was that everyone in

the neighbourhood used the train. It would have been madness to do otherwise. Not only was it the least troublesome way to get to work, but it could get you home from an evening out in the West End at virtually any time.

Well, all good things come to an end. We now have two trains an hour and 15 to 20 minute gaps — in theory — during the rush hour. In fact, there are so many cancellations and delays that the service is even poorer than the official timetable indicates. Needless to say, the night service died out long ago, so a car journey is now essential for any sort of London nightlife. As the service has become worse, more and more people have given up on the train altogether. And so fares have increased exponentially to try to make up for lost revenue. And so even more customers have been driven away by high prices. All of which makes it sound as if Whitehall is the chief culprit. But even a much-reduced timetable would lead customers if it were truly reliable.

**The number of rail passengers is no more fixed than the number of cars**

the last half of the journey into the city without a guard. So the absence of a single guard can result in the cancellation of a whole series of runs.

But more absurd is the impasse over leaf-clearance. Modern trains, it seems, are too light to push away the least smudge in their paths. So special leaf-clearing vehicles must be driven along the track before services begin in the mornings. The unions insist that only qualified train drivers can operate these vehicles, and that they must be accompanied by guards (now called "trainmen"). But Railtrack does not employ drivers and guards, so it has to second them from British Rail. So drivers and guards are pulled out of normal duty, and in their absence, trains must be cancelled.

The logic of this boggles the mind. It is rather as if a private toll-road demanded that drivers fill in potholes themselves because it was unable to employ qualified maintenance staff. In the real (commercial) world, a company like Railtrack would have its own flexible maintenance crews, instead of hiring its customers (the service providers) to clear the track. Is there a remote possibility that privatisation may yet bring the railways within striking distance of the real world?



LEAKS

Peter Brookes

## Choosing a Swiss role

**Europe's richest country has taken a path quite different from the EU's**

Which is the wealthiest nation in Europe? It is Switzerland, with a long lead over every other European country except Luxembourg. At current exchange rates, Switzerland is the richest country on earth, measured by purchasing power parity, the United States may still be equally wealthy. In 1992, the Swiss had a gross domestic product per head of \$36,231; if one takes the latest comparable figures, Japan stands at 78 per cent of the Swiss level, America at 64 per cent, Germany at 63 and Britain at 49. In terms of external purchasing power, the Swiss are twice as rich as we are; in terms of domestic purchasing power, they are about a third richer.

What is the most striking difference between Britain and Switzerland? We are a much more highly politicised society than they are. Few people in Switzerland know who the members of their Government are, and it is doubtful whether a majority can remember the name of the President. Nobody outside Switzerland knows anything about the Swiss Government, nor does it matter that one should. The cantons operate their separate systems with a good deal of independence of each other. They compete to make themselves attractive to their citizens by keeping taxes low, and do not try to win elections by putting taxes and expenditure up. They treat their citizens as their customers. They do not charge significant taxes on capital; estate duties are below 10 per cent in most if not all cantons, and capital gains are free of tax. Swiss society is genuinely capitalist, with private family wealth growing generation by generation.

The Swiss are not, never have been and do not now intend to become members of the European Union. They, like the Norwegians — who are also wealthier than us — recently decided not to apply for membership, despite some agitation by a minority of Swiss Europeanists. As the rest of Europe is significantly poorer than the Swiss, they do not see what economic advantages they would gain by joining a poor man's club. British Europeanists are always saying what an economic disaster it would be for Britain if we were to leave the Union. I am not one of those who wish to leave, if we can avoid it, but the threat that Britain outside the European Union would become as poor as Switzerland is easy to bear.

The Swiss example shows, in particular, the absurdity of the argument that the British financial services industry would collapse if Britain were to leave the European Union. Invisible exports are, of course, only partly a matter of financial services; Switzerland has snow and skiing as well as money and banks. Nevertheless, it is significant that if one takes Swiss invisible exports per head at 100, the British would be 41 and the Germans 24. As far as invisible earnings are concerned, Switzerland has been much more successful outside the EU than Britain has within it.

There are three reasons for this. The Swiss have a strongly capitalist tradition, which has helped to develop banking and other financial services; they have encouraged a private capital base inside the country itself.

From 1939 to the late 1960s, Britain had a tax structure which was designed to make private accumulations of capital difficult or impossible, with a state duty ranging up to 85 per cent for much of the post-war period. We are a poorer country, partly because the post-war socialist and semi-socialist governments consumed our capital.

The Swiss have also had a much better savings record, because they have encouraged this accumulation of private capital. That has had the natural consequence of a strong external balance and a strong currency. Switzerland is the only European country with a consistently strong current account balance — second only to Japan, and in striking contrast to post-war Britain and America and to the Germany of the 1990s. People tend to bank with countries which have strong reserves and large surpluses.

Swiss bank regulations have also been designed to protect both the banks and their customers, with a minimum of interference. The European Community has earned a disastrous reputation for interfering over-regulation, with all the extra costs and loss of confidentiality that follow. The proposed creation of a single

currency and a single European central bank would lead to even further regulation. The Swiss are more likely to benefit from being outside this system of regulation: depositors prefer offshore banks, and Switzerland has remained offshore of post-Maastricht Europe.

This week in Geneva, I have found that the Swiss seem to have no regrets at having remained outside the EU. Their feeling that they are better off on their own seems to be stronger than ever. They follow European politics and the European economy closely, and many of them do not like what they see.

To the south is the disturbing political catastrophe of Italy, with every faction apparently able to block reform, and no faction having the power to do what is needed. Yet when they look north, they see an arrogant, complacent Germany, politically immobilised by the later stages of the Kohl era. The Swiss perceive that the German welfare state structure is crippling German industrial competitiveness. There is no prospect in German politics of anything being done to put this right. The present coalition cannot do what is needed; the next coalition, which may be years away, will presumably be further to the left.

From Geneva, the European Union looks dangerously like a failure. In economic terms, the Common Market had real success in its early days. It was created to narrow the gap between Europe and America as industrial powers. A mixture of post-war recovery and the opening of European trade frontiers achieved that objective in the 1960s and the 1970s. However, the early days are now a distant memory. In the 1990s, Europe is falling back into third place in the world economy, with Asia moving up into first place, and America retaining a lead in technology. Third place was not the target.

In its early years, the European Community built up a reservoir of goodwill with the European elector-

ates, because it was able to deliver the goods: greater economic freedom and greater prosperity. Now, to put it mildly, the Swiss, who are outside Europe, are more free and more wealthy than the people of the Community nations. Brussels has always been a non-democratic structure, and, paradoxically, such structures are more dependent on popularity than democratic ones. Brussels is now delivering economic decline in world terms, bureaucratic regulation, high costs and high unemployment. It is using up the capital of goodwill built up in earlier years.

The Swiss believe that their own prosperity has three pillars. They were neutral in two world wars; they never experienced the socialist attack on capital which crippled countries such as Britain and Sweden, and overburdened Germany and France; and they enjoy the freedom of not belonging to a bureaucratic and centralised system. Of course, they also enjoy the benefits of free trade with the European Community, as the EC does with them. Fifty years after the Second World War, Britain is earning 49 centimes to the Swiss franc. Who can doubt which nation took the correct post-war path to stability and prosperity?

When one examines the Swiss example, one can see the virtues of independence. The independence of the cantons has prevented the creation of an oppressive centralised state, taxing its citizens in order to bribe its voters. Personal independence has been strengthened by the accumulation of family capital, with the high savings that are required. National independence has permitted the Swiss to avoid many, if not all of the mistakes made by larger European countries. Local democracy has proved more responsive than national democracy to public opinion. Politics has been kept in its right place, and politicians in theirs.

In 1972, when Britain joined the EEC, there was a real hope that the political culture of Western Europe was moving in this Swiss direction. In the 1980s, a fateful deal was struck between the French Socialists and the German federalists. Europe changed course towards the social-federal model of Chancellor Kohl and President Delors. The Swiss view this post-Maastricht Europe with some dismay from their mountains. Not surprisingly the British also view it with increasing dismay from across the Channel.

## Will Ulster stand it?

**Paul Bew on the meaning of 'harmonisation'**

The British Government's Ulster strategy is facing its most severe test yet. The Government shows signs of losing even that body of serious-minded Unionist public opinion that desperately wants to work a "historic compromise". In the wake of the *Times* account yesterday of the "framework" document currently being negotiated with the Irish Government, the moderate Belfast *Telegraph* said: "It is little wonder Unionists are unnerved. The Secretary of State, Sir Patrick Mayhew, urges caution until the document is finally agreed, but his words may fall on deaf ears." The *Telegraph* sees the core proposal of the new document as being a joint North-South Irish authority with "radical executive powers", including the power to deal directly with Brussels.

The document does fall short of the joint authority envisaged in national documents such as the New Ireland Forum report of 1984, which spoke of shared responsibility for all aspects of the administration of government in Ireland, but for mainstream Unionists, it is quite simply too close to that for comfort. It should not be forgotten that in 1974 Ted Heath unintentionally destroyed a moderate Unionist leader, Brian Faulkner, who was prepared to accept a power-sharing compromise, by pushing him too far. It would be unfortunate if 20 years later John Major did the same to James Moynihan, who is likewise anxious to work with, rather than against, a British Prime Minister. With the benefit of hindsight, senior officials involved in 1973-74 concede that it was a mistake to push the Irish dimension to the power-sharing deal so hard.

Throughout yesterday, official sources insisted that *The Times*'s version of the document was selective and left out key elements of reassurance for the Unionists. In particular, it was suggested that any new North-South institutions would be accountable to a North-South assembly and that general criteria of "workability" remained in place. Yet middle-class Unionists — very much the key to Moynihan's continued authority — remained unhappy. The new document seems to challenge the British identity of many Ulster Unionists. In part this is, simply a matter of its general "green" tone; but it is also because areas of policy such as education and health have been added to the list for possible north-south harmonisation. Such issues as energy, transport and agriculture already have a significant cross-border dimension, and even moderate Unionists can envisage fruitful pragmatic co-operation in these ring-fenced areas, but the inclusion of education, in however token a form, seems to imply a broader and more ideological programme of all-Ireland harmonisation. In particular, the north is tremendously proud of its excellent grammar schools — which achieve the best A-level results in the UK and provide a stream of talent for British universities.

As for health, we have been here before. In the days of the power-sharing executive of 1974, Dublin promoted harmonisation. The Minister of Health and Social Services was the admirable SDLP politician Paddy Devlin. His permanent secretary replied to the Dublin proposal: "You will see that we have nothing of moment to suggest at this stage, and only vague contingencies in mind for the future. Generally, our view is that the onus lies on the Republic to bring its services up to the standards prevailing in Northern Ireland before there could be any real scope for joint schemes." More graphically, the northern nationalist minister, Paddy Devlin, came round to this view, graphically, telling Garret FitzGerald at a working group on harmonisation: "Keep your hands off my ambulances for a start."

Here we come to grips with the problem of trust and the present lack of it. It is the due to any workable settlement. Some in the British Government may calculate that it is worth sending Unionists into a form of internal exile in order to gain republican enthusiasm. But Mr Moynihan, with all his flaws, is almost the embodiment of majority Ulster Unionist sentiment. In recent years, he has quietly modernised Unionism — for example by his path-breaking Dublin talks in 1992. To ignore him is to invite the Unionist community to return to the unproductive sullen mood which marked the aftermath of the Anglo-Irish agreement of 1985. But the lesson of the Downing Street declaration of 1993 is clear: it is only when a document commands the grudging uneasy respect of all sides — as that one did — that the process can move forward on the basis of consent.

In the midst of the furor, one important reality should not be neglected. This is a difficult moment to say it, but nonetheless there is no future for simplistic Unionist vetoes. A new accommodation with nationalist Ireland has to be achieved. Unionists should be indicating that they are ready for all reasonable forms of co-operation with Dublin.

The author is Professor of Irish Politics at the Queen's University, Belfast and author of *Ideology and the Irish Question* (Oxford).

## Driven men

THERE were tense moments in Whitehall yesterday. Ministers were forced to consider public transport for the first time in years: there was even talk of red boxes making their debut on the London Underground. The Government's team of chauffeurs took industrial action.

Nearly 150 drivers stopped work at 6pm yesterday and held an emergency meeting to discuss grievances over plans to clamp down on overtime. To coincide with the meeting, each driver presented his minister with a polite letter explaining the situation and apologising for the inconvenience caused. One driver said that many ministers were sympathetic to their cause. "In 40 years, the government car service has only had one half-day of action before now, so we are very loyal and discreet," he said. "But we feel very strongly about this. On average, a driver will do 18 to 20 hours overtime a week, because the basic wage (£13,000 p.a.) is so low, and some of the ministers have actually said we should stand up for our rights."

Drivers serving the Prime Minister and other members of the Cabinet with police protection

supported the action, but continued work for security reasons. But alternative transport had to be found to get all other ministers to engagements: public transport was abandoned in favour of a private firm of chauffeurs. "Ministerial mobility will be assured," said a pompous official at the Department of the Environment.

Water, water everywhere — nor any drop to row on. The Oxford University crew has been land-



bound for a week because the river is too swollen for them to take the boat out. "We're on flood alert in Oxford," says a boatman. "But we're having to use the rowing machine in the university sports centre."

### Cock-fight

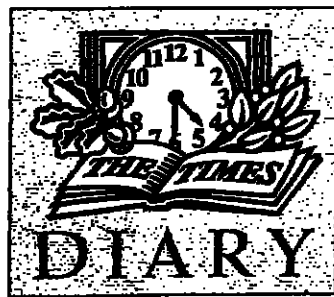
CHANNEL TUNNEL security is on cockerel alert as Gallic hordes descend on Twickenham for Saturday's rugby match against England. The French fans take pride in their cockerel emblem and the more committed are expected to try to bring a few feathery mascots with them to release on the pitch.

"Poultry is not allowed in the Channel Tunnel," warned a man from Eurotunnel. "Customs will confiscate the cockerels."

The French Rugby Federation is defiant, however, given the new opportunity for cockerel-smuggling presented by the tunnel. "We'll beat any restrictions. There will be cockerels at Twickenham I'm sure," said a spokesman.

### Bean there

OZONE BOFFINS in the frozen outpost of the British Antarctic Survey's station at the South Pole have sent out an SOS. They are desper-



ate for baked beans and their cause has been taken up in the House of Commons by Tony Banks, Labour Member for Newham North-West.

Banks has just returned from a visit to the snowy wastes. He says the scientists, who are already suffering from government cutbacks, are down to their last dozen tins — which amounts to half a tin each. "I asked the lads down there about what sort of problems they had, and they said they were running out of Heinz beans," says Banks. "They all really love them, and I'm raising the matter in the House because baked beans are the favourite fast food in the snack bar there. MPs adore them too."

### Shoe shuffle

A NATIONAL tour of celebrity shoes was kicked off by Gary

Lineker, Fiona Campbell and Sebastian Coe at St Thomas's Hospital in London yesterday. Coe had donated the pair of running shoes he wore to the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles for the exhibition to raise money for the stillbirth charity Tommy's Campaign. He confessed, however, to a special fondness for more psychedelic footwear.

Back in the early 1980s, after setting one of many world records, his shoe supplier made him a light-hearted gift of the sort of pumps that most people would wear only for a bet. He and the shoes are now inseparable.

"They are the most lurid disco training shoes, and were meant as a joke," he explains. "They are silver with bright red speckled soles and gold laces — made for Abba to take on tour. I wear them all the time."

### Dated

COMPETITION is stiffer than ever for the Oldie of the Year award to be presented this Friday by *The Oldie* magazine. Spike Milligan is in with a chance, for facetiously calling the Prince of Wales a "grovelling little bastard"; Tony Benn is being considered after his expulsion from the Commons' Privileges Committee; Ted



Our Cilla: has an admirer

Newbury, the 82-year-old pensioner, for his pot-shot at an intruder in his allotment; and the jockey Rosemary Henderson for coming fifth in the Grand National.

But there is a late runner: Cilla Black. She is favoured by the oldest and perhaps most distinguished judge on the panel: Lord Wyatt of Weeford. "At a recent judges' lunch, he could talk of no one else," says my source. "She is just wonderful," he kept saying. I think he fancies her rotten."

P.H.S

John Miles 1550





## THE PROCESS OF PEACE

Why it was right to publish the joint framework document

Last night, the Prime Minister took the extraordinary step of addressing the nation on the future of the Ulster peace process. His remarks followed the disclosure in *The Times* of a late draft version of the joint framework document, containing radical proposals for the Province, which the British and Irish Governments are expected to complete and publish soon.

A great furor was generated by our publication yesterday. We have received congratulations and contumely from readers and participants alike. We have listened carefully to the arguments and the insults that have been deployed. It remains our firm belief that it was in the public interest — and in the interests of a lasting peace in Northern Ireland — to print the accounts that we did.

The two Governments were particularly free with criticism. Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, told the Commons that the leak was calculated to derail the peace process. John Bruton, the Taoiseach, gave warning that the disclosure could damage "the entire process towards peace and reconciliation". A senior Tory MP spoke of "scandalous irresponsibility".

Almost no one, it seems, seriously disputes the authenticity of the draft version seen by *The Times*. Some critics have claimed, however, that our coverage was a distorted version of the draft document that we saw. We have examined this possibility with care and are confident that this is not the case. Our reporter described the framework fairly, professionally and in the best tradition of informed *Times* journalism.

The proposals, if enacted, would undoubtedly "bring the prospect of a united Ireland closer than at any time since 1920". Perhaps Sir Patrick Mayhew, who described that sentence in our story yesterday as "rubbish" would like to say when such prospects have been closer. The Prime Minister sought to reassure his audience last night that "nothing is going to be imposed on Ulster" and that "any new North-South bodies... will not be run by London". Nothing in *The Times* could be construed as suggesting that plans for either compulsion or control from London were contained in the document.

Other criticisms have centred on the unfinished status of the document. The joint framework has been under discussion for more than a year. In the last few weeks, officials have indicated that the long-awaited paper was on "its last lap". It was reasonable to assume that the recent draft seen by *The*

*Times* was a late version. This has not been refuted. We conceded that there was room for last-minute changes to the text but that its main elements were clear. We also gave prominent space to Downing Street's immediate response, reinforcing the fact that the framework had not been finalised.

The third line of attack concerned the motives of our source and our decision to publish sensitive information that had not been received through official channels. We rest our case here not only on the truth of the words but in our judgment of the public interest in their publication. The key elements of this document indicated where ministerial and diplomatic opinion was heading. If those elements were too weak to face the daylight yesterday, will they be strong enough to face a no less harsh light hereafter?

Newspapers have a general responsibility to print the truth unless there is an absolutely compelling reason not to do so. There is no reason to assume that the true peace process has been damaged by this disclosure. The deep-seated anxieties of the Unionist community about cross-border joint authority have been raised earlier than they might have been. These fears are real and will not be answered by diplomatic emollient and vague promises. Only specific answers to specific questions will allay the concerns of those who wish Ulster to remain part of the United Kingdom.

Downing Street made a start yesterday by indicating that the North-South body would depend upon Northern Ireland's new administrative assembly for its authority. This was a step forward from and clarification of the draft document which seemed to make membership of the new body compulsory for heads of department in the Province's new devolved administration.

The detailed process of consultation is now beginning. It is quite clear that both Governments have underestimated the strength of Unionist opinion on the constitutional future. The negotiators will also learn from the diverse reactions of nationalists to the proposals. This should help them to amend the final version appropriately and to produce a plan which all sections of the Ulster population find acceptable. In the Commons yesterday, Marjorie Mowlem, the Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, said that "we all need to be open and honest in our dealings". That is true. Without honesty, openness and frank discussion of differences, the peace process will be nothing but a prelude to disappointment.

## JAPAN'S APOLOGY

A gesture of contrition for its wartime record is needed

Japan's wartime record continues, 50 years on, to bedevil its efforts to develop a role in international affairs more commensurate with its economic might. To many Japanese this is an unfair, even racist, harping on events for which Japan paid its reckoning long ago. They argue that Japan's leading war criminals were tried and sentenced just as Germany's were. Compensation to interned allied civilians and prisoners-of-war, the Japanese Government insists, was fully and finally settled under the terms of the 1951 peace treaty.

By painful degrees, however, Japan's leaders have accepted that no reckoning can be complete without a genuine and public expression of contrition: towards the countries it invaded, and towards those individuals who were treated with inexcusable inhumanity. In 1993 Morihiro Hosokawa expressed "profound remorse and apologies". Three successive Japanese Prime Ministers have now officially expressed contrition and offered condolences. Many Japanese who have been ready to concede that Japan was far too slow to make such redress now consider that the past should finally be laid to rest.

Consensus still remains elusive. Other right-wing politicians, including some cabinet ministers, have marred their colleagues' words by their outspoken dismissal of Japanese war guilt. The external perception of an unapologetic country remains.

Now the powerful Liberal Democratic Party has expressed its opposition to plans to mark the 50th anniversary of the war's end by an "apology resolution" in the Japanese Diet. This can only strengthen doubts about Japanese sincerity. Nearly half the coalition's LDP members in the Diet have signed a statement that a formal apology of this kind would ratify "a distorted view of history". The objectors protest that such a gesture would also expose Japan to claims for compensation beyond the ungenerous sums provided under the 1951 treaty. Despite the strong case for financial review — above all for the survivors among up to 250,000 "comfort women" forced into sex slavery by the Japanese Imperial Army — Japan worries that any precedent could open the floodgates to claims estimated at up to £116 billion. Civil suits are already before Japanese courts.

Such considerations should not be allowed to override the moral imperative of an appropriate gesture in this anniversary year. Were it to be forthcoming from Japan's imperial family, some of whose members are now known to have felt deep anxiety at the time about the conduct of the war, no legal liability would be incurred. Japan has given many proofs of peaceful change since 1945: the continuity expressed through the Imperial Family could in turn help to heal wounds abroad — and to encourage ordinary Japanese to come more fully to terms with a history that cannot be rewritten.

## DUTCH COURAGE

The people of The Netherlands have stoicism in their blood

The dykes were still holding yesterday, but for hundreds of thousands of Dutch the misery is not over nor is the danger past. The catastrophic floods in the southern provinces of The Netherlands are the worst since the great North Sea floods of 1953, and have brought untold damage.

Record floods have also swamped Cologne and Koblenz, inundated Belgian villages and driven people from their homes in France. Britain, also wet and flooded in parts, knows what they are suffering. But it is to the Dutch that the greatest sympathy goes out: not only because of the special bond of affection that binds this country to The Netherlands, but because of the extraordinary skill of the Dutch over the centuries in keeping river and sea at bay and the catastrophes that have occurred when nature has got the upper hand.

The Dutch have water in their veins. Much of their stoicism in the face of such disaster and the exemplary co-operation between villagers and officials in shoring up the dykes is due to the country's battle for dry land over more than a thousand years. Land has been wrested from the sea, acre by

acre, rivers tamed, polders drained and marshes transformed into agricultural land.

The dykes have not only created more living space for the Dutch; they have helped to protect it. In the seventeenth century the Dutch began a massive "Water Line" to hold up attacks from the east. A series of dykes was constructed from Naarden to Biesbosch, later strengthened with regular forts. An approaching army could be halted by breaking the river walls and flooding the countryside. The system once kept Louis XIV at bay; but the last attempt to use flooding in self-defence was made during the Second World War.

The waters will go down, and the Dutch will scrub and mend to restore their usual tidy cleanliness. There is a special sympathy in this country for the worst-affected province, Gelderland, for it was here that the doomed Arnhem campaign took place. Then the Dutch sheltered Britain's vanquished soldiers; now they have to shelter their own refugees. They live beside an enemy more capricious than human aggressors; and something of Dutch humility must be traced to this age-old struggle against the elements.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Popular discontent over closer links with Europe

From Professor Emeritus Alan Day

Sir, In arguing that Maastricht "has already created conditions which inevitably will lead to a supranational European state run by an unelected commission in Brussels", Sir James Goldsmith (article, January 27) is much nearer the mark than Mr Geoffrey Martin of the European Commission (letter, January 31).

Despite rumblings of popular discontent, the political elite in almost every member country other than the United Kingdom favours moving to the "ever closer union" of the Rome and Maastricht Treaties — a commitment which the lawyers now tell us is legally binding.

France and Germany envisage a hegemony extending at least as far as the frontiers of the old USSR. The elite of the lesser member countries see an opportunity for playing some kind of role on a larger stage than they could otherwise enjoy.

The commitment to a common currency has every likelihood of being realised soon. It goes far beyond establishing a fixed exchange rate between separate currencies and will be practically irreversible once achieved. It implies a degree of unification of macro-economic policies as tight as that between England and Scotland today.

It will, no doubt, be run along German lines and is being accepted by the French for broader political reasons. The other members are generally prepared to accept the unification of macro-economic policies because their possible range for independent policies is in any case extremely narrow.

Moreover, in practical terms the Union can fairly be seen as being run by the Commission, which proposes policies for national ministers to dispose. Anyone who has worked in a bureaucracy knows that the power lies with those who create the agenda and write the drafts. The Napoleonic system reincarnated by the Rome treaty was tolerable for running a mere customs union. This, we were assured when we joined the Common Market, was all that we were committed to.

It is a disturbingly undemocratic system for running the all-embracing Union into which we are being steadily

edged. Pressures such as those outlined above are still pushing us towards a degree of political union which hardly anyone in Britain appears to want.

Yours faithfully,  
ALAN DAY,  
Chart Place,  
Chart Sutton, Maidstone, Kent,  
February 1.

From Mr Ian Curteis

Sir, Lord Howe and Sir Edward Heath are not two men against whom the charge of loyalty to their party leaders could easily be laid. Nevertheless, their recent statements on Europe (reports, January 30, 31) should be examined with care.

They are among the last of their generation still in semi-public life, who experienced the horrors of the Second World War. It is entirely understandable that they would do anything to prevent such a thing happening again.

In precisely the same way, those Britons instrumental in the Munich agreement in 1938 had fresh in their minds the horrors of the First World War and were prepared to impose any sacrifice or sell-out, no matter how dishonourable, to prevent a recurrence.

The result of this shell-shocked policy was war, national shame and disgrace which took the return of Churchill to reverse — not only for ourselves but for the whole of Europe. For the third time this century, Germany is seeking to dominate Europe. Another Munich is not the answer.

Yours truly,  
IAN CURTEIS,  
The Mill House, Coln St Aldwyns,  
Cirencester, Gloucestershire,  
January 31.

From Dr Martin Holmes

Sir, It was with sadness rather than anger that I read Lord Rippon's bizarre attack on the Bruges Group (letter, January 31) as a "fringe organisation".

The truth is the opposite of his assertion. Although it may have been plausible to describe us as a fringe group on our foundation in 1989 — when Mrs Thatcher's approach to Europe scandalised a Europhile Conservative Party — this is surely no

longer the case. The Bruges Group is now definitively mainstream, with many of the policies we have advocated now commanding assent at Cabinet as well as back-bench level. Who now favours, for example, ERM membership, which we castigated at the time?

It is an irony that Lord Rippon's accusation should occur on the day you published an extract from Mr Malcolm Rifkind's Eurosceptical speech in Brussels. Nothing demonstrates more clearly that the Bruges Group's approach to Europe now commands an ever-growing support which Lord Rippon strangely seeks to ignore.

I remain, Sir, yours sincerely,  
MARTIN HOLMES  
(Co-Chairman, The Bruges Group),  
44 Park Town, Oxford.

From Mr P. J. Riddell

Sir, I would like to express my concern at the Prime Minister's apparent shift towards "Euro-scepticism".

It is fashionable to say that as a result of European integration it is inconceivable that the countries of Western Europe may find themselves again at war with each other. In view of past history, this is a dangerous assumption to make. I believe that relationships tend to deteriorate unless they are deliberately nourished — be they inter-personal or international. As in all relationships, differences can either lead people to grow together or growing apart.

Other parts of the world look to Europe as a model of how countries can co-operate. If we British could be big enough to put ourselves, with our history and experience, into developing a real community of nations in Europe — a demonstration of very different peoples working together, concerned with the needs of less fortunate peoples — I believe that future generations would have cause to be grateful to us.

"Britain at the heart of Europe" was John Major's phrase — and I wish he would stick to it.

Yours sincerely,  
PETER RIDDELL,  
12a Northam Road, Oxford,  
February 1.

### Legal issues arising out of Private Clegg's conviction

From Mr Kevin McNamara

MP for Hull North (Labour)

Sir, Between 1969 and the ceasefires in 1994, British forces were responsible for a total of 357 deaths in Northern Ireland. Only 26 of these killings have given rise to criminal proceedings for murder or manslaughter. Three convictions have been obtained so far, one for manslaughter and two, including Private Lee Clegg (letters, January 21, 24, 25, 26, 28), for murder.

The main problem with the law lies in a very restrictive House of Lords decision from the mid-1970s, which makes it almost impossible for the prosecuting authorities to be reasonably confident that a conviction will be secured if charges are pressed.

On March 3, 1987, the Labour Party sought to amend the Emergency Provisions Act so as to make such prosecutions easier, but the Government resisted the change. On January 31, 1991, when the Act was again before the House, the Labour Party suggested an amendment which would have allowed the bringing of a manslaughter charge in a case like Private Clegg's. Once again, this was resisted by the Government in a whipped vote in committee.

Is it now too late to ask the Government to follow the Labour Party lead on this matter?

Yours sincerely,  
KEVIN McNAMARA  
(Shadow Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, 1987-94),  
House of Commons,  
January 31.

From Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, QC

Sir, The dangers of leaving the sentencing of convicted murderers to the Secretary of State, to which Lord Ackner alludes in his letter of January 26, are less apparent in the case of Private

Clegg than in cases where the conviction is by jury.

Unlike a jury's verdict of murder, which is unexplained and gives no indication of the moral obliquity of the particular criminal event, Mr Justice Campbell's reasoned judgment, in *R v Clegg* (report, June 5, 1993), fully upheld by the Northern Ireland Court of Appeal and the House of Lords, will be of great assistance to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. It will also allow members of the public to judge accurately the force of any plea for clemency.

Yours faithfully,  
LOUIS BLOM-COOPER,  
2 Rippelvale Grove, NI,  
January 29.

From His Honour A. L. Figgis

Sir, Private Clegg was tried, not by a jury, but by what is known as a Diplock court. One appreciates that such a court has been necessary in the conditions of Northern Ireland; but it must be borne in mind that such a court deprives a defendant of what has been described, by a wise judge, as one of his important rights — that of the chance of being tried by a sympathetic jury.

There are a great many who have more experience of jury trials than I have, but I feel sure that the view of nearly all of them on the evidence that has been published, would be that a jury would almost certainly have acquitted Private Clegg of murder.

I am sure that this is a factor that will be taken into account by whoever has to exercise a discretion as to his future.

Yours faithfully,  
ARTHUR FIGGIS,  
The Forge, The Green,  
Sharnley Green, Guildford, Surrey,  
February 1.

### Thieves of a feather

From Mr Garth ap Rees

Sir, "What," asks Bernard Levin ("The way we thieves now", January 24), "is the meaning of the thefts and swindles played upon generous people who do nothing but help those who need help?"

One answer is that National Service ended in 1960, since when self-service has increasingly taken over any other form of service or national interest.

Yours sincerely,  
GARTH AP REES,  
Cranhill House, Piers Road,  
West Cranmore, Somerset,  
January 24.

From Mr J. G. Stanford

Sir, Why should Mr Levin be so mystified that the eighth commandment is now so little respected when few, if any, of the other nine are, or are even taught?

Yours faithfully,  
J. G. STANFORD,  
The Old Rectory, Tendring, Essex.

### Putting on the hype

From Mr Andrew Rutherford

Sir, Bernard Levin clearly relished savaging the advertising business ("Imagine: Levin & Levin", January 20; see also letter, January 28), but then journalists nearly always do.

It could, of course, be resentment at the influence advertisers hold over their beloved journals.

But I suspect there's a deeper reason for the constant diatribes against us.

In the pecking order of scribblers, the media hack sees himself some way below real writers like the chap who wrote *Hamlet*, the brilliant play, and some way above copywriters like the chap who wrote *Hamlet*, the brilliant cigar commercials.

He may be right or wrong on both counts but the temptation to move from the defensive to the offensive, to pass on some of the disdain visited on his own profession, is obviously irresistible.

Yours etc,  
ANDREW RUTHERFORD  
(Copywriter),  
105 Dulwich Village, SE21,  
January 23.

### Bygone values

From Mr Robert Vincent

Sir, In what seems an attempt to return some way towards Victorian values a nearby village is currently engaged in replacing its modern telephone kiosk with an antiquated red model, reasoning that it will be more in keeping with the village's thatched-cottage image.

Including underground cabling, this change will call for more than £4,500 of ratepayers' money. I have suggested that should such retrogressive impulses infect other parishes, they finance them by neglecting repairs to the intrusive, later-day tarmacadam of their village street. In time this also would revert to a state more in keeping with thatched dwellings.

Meanwhile one wonders, in this march against modernity, what future economies may be recommended to help turn back their environmental clock.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT VINCENT,  
Dilly House,  
Wildhern, Andover, Hampshire,  
January 26.

### New resting place for Francis Drake

From Mr Michael Turner

Sir, Today, January 28, is the 399th anniversary of the death of Sir Francis Drake off the coast of Panama. Since 1980 I have been travelling the world retracing the life and voyages of my schoolboy hero, Francis Drake. I have photographed virtually all the places he saw with which he was associated. This has cost me a jailing, two muggings and £50,000 from my salary as a teacher.

Like a parent who has lost a son in battle, I wish to know the exact spot where Sir Francis lies. Just to locate the lead coffin in which he was buried at sea is the main objective of the expedition I am proposing to lead to the Caribbean this summer (report, January 25).

Drake's coffin alone would be of considerable archaeological interest. It is probable that his coat of arms was inscribed on the coffin lid. Some scientists think that the coffin may have been hermetically sealed and might be dry inside. Hermetically sealed coffins are known to have existed since long before Drake's time.

Drake need not be disturbed. It would serve no purpose to raise the coffin if there were no place for him in his own country. If the coffin were visible lying on the hard, sandy seabed and were not to be raised, our expedition could hide Drake for ever from subsequent unauthorised expeditions by moving him towards the shore and permitting him to sink beneath the soft alluvial mud.

After reading all the primary accounts concerning Francis Drake, I feel that I have developed a spiritual relationship with him and am convinced that he would have preferred to rest in his beloved English soil. He was a devout Protestant, who lies beneath waters that lap a Catholic country. Vainglorious, social climber and attention-seeker that he was, he would have wanted a resting place in St Paul's, like Nelson's, or in Westminster Abbey, near his much-loved sovereign. He would have adored the adulation of visitors to his tomb.

Let the definitive search for Sir Francis go ahead. If the coffin cannot be found with today's technology, then this should be the last quest.

Yours sincerely,  
MICHAEL TURNER,  
7 Rosewood Avenue,  
Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset,  
January 28.

From Mrs Jane Jallad

Sir, I have visited Portobello in Panama, from where Sir Francis Drake was buried a few miles offshore. It is an area of great beauty and tranquility. The only sound is the breeze from the Caribbean Sea playing through the palm trees.

I should think Drake is turning in his lead coffin at the thought of perhaps being transported to the confines of Westminster Abbey to be serenaded by the chatter of tourists and the honking of horns in Parliament Square. Let him rest in the balmy water off Panama.

Yours faithfully,  
JANE JALLAD,  
2 Paget Place, Warren Road,  
Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey.

### Music exams

From the Chief Executive of Trinity College London

Sir, On what basis, I wonder, does the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music come to the conclusion that the teaching of practical musicianship using the electronic keyboard, is at present of too low a standard to warrant any formal assessment of attainment ("Fortissimo Britain lacks a piano", Arts, January 25)?

I believe that there are hundreds of dedicated teachers of music who could challenge such an assertion — and it may be helpful to them to know that this college has already acknowledged the popularity of the electronic keyboard as a means of introducing children to the world of music in classrooms up and down the country.

In such a situation it seemed entirely appropriate to design and launch, in 1994, a suite of graded examinations for the electronic keyboard alongside our provision for other more traditional instruments.

If a question mark does exist with regard to the quality of teaching, then the syllabus for these examinations will provide an important aid towards the improvement of standards.

I can think of no more useful function for an examinations board to perform.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN DAVEY,  
Chief Executive,  
Trinity College London,  
16 Park Crescent, W1,  
January 25.

### Crossed line?

From Mrs Diana Whittington

Sir, Sir Iain Vallance, of BT, must regret his company's advertising slogan — "It's good to talk".

Yours faithfully,  
DIANA WHITTINGTON,  
Burchetts, Chobham, Surrey,  
February 1.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.











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## How a determined group of investigators solved a problem on the flight deck of one of the world's most popular airliners

## When three seconds could mean disaster

The millions of passengers who each year travel on 477 Airbus A320 twin jets can now do so with even more confidence that they will reach their destination safely after another satisfying result for the Air Accident Investigation Branch (AAIB) of the Department of Transport.

The investigators discovered that A320s had been operating with a delay of three seconds before the aircraft's computers displayed warnings on screens on the aircraft's "dashboard" when there was a problem with the flying surfaces.

As a result, an Excalibur A320 with 185 holidaymakers and seven crew on board took off from Gatwick with the five right wing spoilers — moveable panels which help the aircraft to roll and also act as air brakes — not connected to the control column. The Faro-

bound Airbus could not turn left, because engineers in the British Airways maintenance hangar at Gatwick had failed to reconnect the spoilers after removing a damaged flap.

The nine engineers involved in the incident were sent for retraining. But that was not the end of the matter for the Farnborough-based investigation team. They were determined to find out not only why the engineers forgot to reconnect the spoilers, but why the pilots, too, did not notice that they were disconnected in their pre-takeoff checks.

It took four investigators — plus a psychologist and an aviation doctor — almost 18 months to produce a report whose 14 safety

recommendations have now been studied throughout the world.

The AAIB never apportioned blame, but in 63 pages it traces the causes of the incident and sets out simply what happened. It makes fascinating, and often chilling, reading.

Three other cases of A320s taking off with unconnected spoilers have been reported in the past three years and each could have become a disaster had it not been for the skill of the pilots.

Yet only now has the significance of the three-second delay been realised. A320 pilots use a small stick, similar to that on many computer games, on the side of the cockpit to control the aircraft. During taxi they are



instructed to move it to each side and to check that all control surfaces are operating properly. It had become routine for pilots to "sit" the side-stick to complete the checks quickly. The pilots did not know that there was a three-second delay and that the stick must be held in each position for at least that long.

"Had either pilot [of the Excali-

but A320] held his sidestick fully to the right for three seconds or more the spoiler fault would have been detected by the fault warning computer and the flight phase of this incident would have been avoided," they conclude.

The investigators also report on the way in which the handover between shifts was made "at a time when the engineer could be expected to be tired". Some tools and equipment needed for the work were not used, the maintenance manual was confusing, the job was not one often carried out, needed different methods from those normally used on other aircraft, and few of the engineers had carried out an A320 flap change before.

Bit by bit the errors and the

underlying reasons behind them are exposed. The psychologist in the team explains how "human expectations can affect the quality of an independent check to the point where two people make the same mistake", and he suggests that on the flight deck there is always the "potential to see what is expected rather than what is actually displayed".

Fundamental safety issues about increasing reliance on computers, about training methods and about how being qualified to work on or fly different types of jet can itself cause problems are raised in the report. How many motorists have flicked on the windscreen wipers

rather than the indicators because their old car, long gone but still lingering deep within memory, had indicators on a different side? Has any official body questioned why they are on different sides?

How many mechanics have allowed a car back on to the road with no grease in a vital part, or some important electrical wire left unconnected? Have their mistakes been publicly aired?

Some 50,000 people are killed and more than 1.5 million injured on the roads of Europe each year. The cost is estimated at £50 billion.

Last year just 1,385 passengers died in air crashes — throughout the world. The AAIB has 30 investigators, 16 support staff and costs £3 million a year.

Countless lives have undoubtedly been saved as a result of its work. It has to be worth every penny.

## Taking on a cottage industry

Thomson has bought the Blakes holiday home business. Harvey Elliott reports

The giant Thomson group yesterday took a firm grip on the fast-expanding British holiday market when it paid more than £5 million for the Blakes holiday-cottage business.

Thomson, already the market leader in foreign package holidays, first moved into domestic tourism last August with a £34 million takeover of the Country Holidays group, and is now poised to dominate self-catering in Britain.

Blakes was created as a co-operative venture in 1908 by boat owners on the Norfolk Broads to enable it to market its water-based holidays more efficiently. It now has 1,400 cruises, yachts and narrow boats on the Norfolk Broads, the Thames and canals, as well as in Scotland, France and Ireland.

About 20 years ago the group began to expand by letting cottages, chalets and holiday-village accommodation. The company expanded its portfolio until it was able to send more than 120,000 people each year to 1,700 properties throughout Britain.

Thomson has bought the cottage letting and marketing part of the business, leaving Blakes to concentrate on its "core" business of boats and yacht hire.

No one knows precisely how many farmhouses, cottages and second homes are let to



Cruising with Blakes Boating Holidays through Horning in the Norfolk Broads. The company is planning to develop its boating operation

visitors in Britain each year, although the best estimate is that about four million people a year take holidays in anything from converted barns to Scottish castles. About 70,000 people have second homes in the country, which are used for two or three weeks and for the rest of the time stand empty.

Little has been done until now to market these in a concerted way and Adele Biss, the chairman of the British Tourist Authority, yesterday gave her full backing to the Thomson move. "It is excellent

news for Britain," she said. "We are delighted that Thomson is bringing its muscle to the domestic market and that a tourism giant is going to be able to use its expertise and marketing clout to sell our holiday homes both at home and abroad. It has come at a time when there seems to be a strong revival of the domestic holiday market and a slackening of demand for foreign package holidays."

The takeover will give Thomson at least 12 per cent of the British self-catering market and it has plans for further

expansion. "This takes us into a new market, but one which we think is ready for growth," said Peter Chappelow, the managing director of Thomson Country Holidays. "We are taking on properties from the very select, to timeshare and 'hi-de-hi' holidays centres. There is a lot of scope for further organic growth, and we believe we can now do something to develop the whole of the UK market."

Roger Peverett, the managing director of Blakes, was also confident that Thomson would be able to develop the

whole sector — while giving Blakes the cash to expand.

"We believe that the cottage owners and holiday customers will both benefit from the strong marketing and retailing skills of Country Holidays and its parent, Thomson Travel Group," he said. "We will rapidly build the boating operation on the Broads and other waterways around Europe. Boating is a series of niche markets which we will be now be looking to expand."

Thomson is likely to concentrate on letting the properties to foreign visitors as well as to

Britons. It signs an agreement with the owners to look after the properties, markets them through its brochure and collects the bills.

Thomson takes a commission of between 21 and 25 per cent of the total price, which averages about £12 per person per night — a fraction of the price of a hotel room.

Most people who now use country cottages are ABC1 holidaymakers, typically with two or three children. A cottage sleeping six in Devon at the height of the season would cost under £600 a week.

## Business takes to the skies

Air travel booms as executives favour planes over trains

The inexorable rise of air travel and its importance in keeping Europe's businesses on the move is underlined in a new survey into business travel trends within the Community. Harvey Elliott writes.

More than 90 per cent of European travellers on international business used air travel to get to their destination in 1994, 5 per cent went by train and 16 per cent by car, according to MarketLine, an international market research organisation.

British business travellers relied even more heavily on air with 95 per cent using air services to fly between one country and another, 9 per cent relying on their car and only 2 per cent on rail.

While the use of airports rose steadily the number of rail journeys dropped by 4.2 per cent in 1994. There were 71.3 million rail journeys made in Europe last year compared with 744.8 million in 1992-1993.

Airline tickets also represented the biggest proportion of business travel

expenditure, swallowing up 39.5 per cent of all the money spent by European companies in chasing business. This compared with 18 per cent spent on motor fuel or mileage, 16 per cent on hotels and 9 per cent on entertainment. Rail travel accounted for just 3 per cent of the total business travel costs.

According to MarketLine almost \$140 billion was spent by executives and salesmen from the main European countries, including Switzerland, on business travel last year. Germany spent the largest amount at \$38.3 billion with Britain not far behind at \$30.3 billion (about £19 billion). Belgium spent \$3.6 billion.

Sweden spent 60 per cent of all its business travel costs abroad, Switzerland

50 per cent, Holland 40 per cent, Belgium 44 per cent and Britain 38 per cent, according to the report.

London hotels are doing better than others in Europe in attracting business clients, filling 74 per cent of their rooms on average last year compared with a 62.8 per cent rate in the rest of Europe.

The survey confirms that a small number of businessmen and women who are constantly on the move provide the bulk of the income for hotels, airlines, car-hire companies and restaurants. Hotel chains, for example, rely on 20 per cent of business customers for 60 per cent of their bookings. Travellers say their top priority in choosing where to stay is the service available followed by the hotel's location.

Car rental is also becoming more important as a regular business tool and last year was worth £597 million, an increase of 8.7 per cent on the previous year. In 1994 car hire companies said that business customers accounted for 57 per cent of their turnover, with 43 per cent taken up by leisure customers.

Radar fails to pick up the UFO which had a near miss with a Boeing 737 jet

## Richness of the saucer story

is one of four reports of unidentified flying objects which have been investigated by the CAA's Joint Airmass Working Group since 1987, but which are still unexplained. Three of the craft have been described as either triangular or lozenge-shaped.

and the coincidence is enough to excite those who believe in "flying saucers".

Arnold West, the director of the British UFO Research Association, says the description was all too familiar to him. Mr West, who used to work for the CAA, says: "We

know of several sightings of triangular flying objects over the past few years. "There were several seen over The Netherlands two or three years ago and they have also been seen over America."

"The design" of UFOs varies but the wedge-shaped description which the pilots saw seems to be common over recent years."

The JAWG, which is made up of representatives of pilots organisations, airlines, trade unions, military experts and cynics has not yet tried to piece together the evidence of what could have caused the near miss. But they are likely to give Mr West's explanation less credence than a whole series of other possible explanations ranging from a high-flying radio-controlled model aircraft to a USAF F117 Stealth fighter heading south, the crew of which somehow failed to file a flight plan.

## TRAVEL IN WEEKEND ON SATURDAY

- Walking, cooking, Windjamming, biking — Jill Crawshaw selects the best specialist holidays
- The charm of Catalonia
- Katie Hickman cruises down the Danube
- Felice Eyston on ski courses for women
- Paul Duncan on Naples
- Alan Road in Portmeirion

## Venetian romance

THOMSON (0171-707 9000) has a selection of romantic packages for Valentine's Day including four nights bed and breakfast in Venice for £285 per person, flying from Gatwick on February 12; and seven nights half-board in Kenya for £489 per person, flying from Manchester on February 12.

AN alternative romantic escape from Cruise Classified (0171-723 6773) combines six nights at Waikiki Beach with a week's cruise through the Hawaiian Islands. The trip departs on February 12 and costs from £1,650 per person.

VISITORS wishing to be married in the Cayman Islands no longer have to fulfil any waiting or residency period because of an amendment to the Cayman Islands Marriage Law. This means passengers arriving on cruise ships may wed during their day in port in Grand Cayman. A brochure with complete guidelines is available from the Cayman Islands Department of Tourism in London (0171-581 9960).

SIX nights in a Barbados hotel beach-front room including breakfast and dinner costs £1,699 per person from The Travel Collection (0306 744300). The price includes the a flight from Heathrow on Concorde and a return in economy class with British Airways. Departures are on March 11 and 18.

RETURN flights to New York and seven days' car

hire cost £226 per person with Travelpack (01159 424442). Other destinations include Washington or Boston for £245 and Atlanta, Baltimore, Charlotte and Pittsburgh.

A TWIN-CENTRE city break for singles in Madrid and Barcelona is on offer from Solo's (0181-202 0855) this spring with three nights in both towns, as well as an overnight train journey be-



The Prado in Madrid: spring breaks on offer

tween the two. Departures from Heathrow are on April 23, and the price of £699 per person includes flights, hotel accommodation, some meals and sight-seeing tours.

A FLIGHT-ONLY programme to a choice of Eastern Mediterranean, North African and Middle Eastern destinations has been announced by Belleair Holidays (0181-785 3266). Departures are from Heathrow, Gatwick, Glasgow and Manchester, and the cities featured include Athens (E249), Bahrain (E429), Cairo (E345) and Damascus (E306), excluding airport taxes.

MARIANNE CURPHEY

## TRAVEL NEWS IN BRIEF

## And now a break from our sponsors

SPONSORSHIP is spreading from sporting and cultural events to weekend breaks. Hoteliers are turning to food and drinks companies to sponsor evenings, thus keeping the prices down while guests sample the products. The 18th-century Spread Eagle Hotel in Midhurst, West Sussex, for example, recently held a "champagne celebration" sponsored by Laurent Perrier which included dinner, champagne, accommodation and breakfast for £79 a head. Other champagne houses, as well as whisky and cognac distillers, are also showing an interest.

## Caribbean villas to rent

SIMPLY THE BEST, which has previously concentrated on renting out privately owned villas in Provence and the Côte d'Azur, has spent two years setting up an equivalent operation in the Caribbean. This season it is offering an array of properties on 16 islands from Jamaica and Barbados to smaller islands such as Necker and Tortola. The properties are all provided with maid service, and many come with live-in staff, including a butler and a cook. Prices begin at £1,500 per week. The Caribbean Islands brochure is available from Private Property Portfolio (0171-734 4355).

## Good news for over-55s

AGE CONCERN Insurance Services (01883 346 964) is introducing a new travel-insurance policy for anyone aged 55 or over, which does not automatically double or even triple premiums because of age. The new policy will offer no loading for age irrespective of condition of health, provided that a doctor gives approval for travel. It will also give discounts of up to 30 per cent for those travelling in groups.

## Mancunian popularity

MANCHESTER is enjoying a tourist boom. The region generated £341 million from tourism in 1993, which was £100 million more than in the previous year and against the general trend of the rest of the country. Visitors spent £80 million more than in the previous year, a growth of 66 per cent. Elizabeth Jeffreys, the chief executive of the Greater Manchester Visitor and Convention Bureau, thinks that much of the increase flowed from the city's Olympics bid.

## Retreats in store



A NEW travel organisation based at St Etheldreda's Church (left), in London EC1, is offering spiritual-retreat holidays at 19 of Europe's most contemplative retreat houses and monasteries. Among the venues — with a week's peace costing between £250 and £650 — are the Benedictine monastery of San to Domingo de Silos in Spain and the Trappist monastery of Osera in Galicia. Information: Retreats Beyond Dover (0171-403-6552)

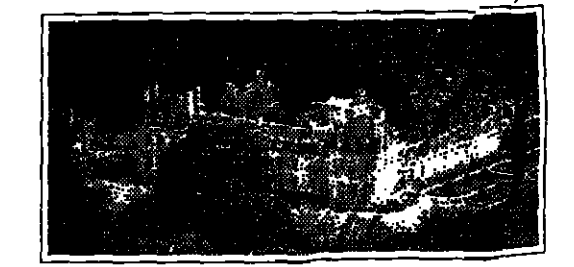
## Boundary in the tunnel

THE FIRST two British citizens to be arrested by British police officers on foreign soil and brought back to England without the need for extradition proceedings returned from France last month. Because the frontier is, technically, 40 metres under the seabed in the middle of the Channel, agreement has been reached between Britain and France for officers to work alongside each other. Kent policemen travel through the tunnel three times a day to carry out their frontier-control shift.

## Schiphol airport grows

AS BRITAIN dithers over suggestions that Heathrow should be further developed, Amsterdam is pressing ahead with the growth of Schiphol. In 1994 the airport invested 395 million guilders (£146 million) in renovation, and plans to spend a further 440 million guilders this year with a new entrance, rail station and car park. The Netherlands Parliament is due to decide on Schiphol's proposals for expansion into a "mainport", the major hub for European and intercontinental traffic.

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C O N N O I S E U R



## NEWS

## Major pledges no sell-out

John Major tried to keep alive the Ulster peace process with a television address in which he assured the people of Northern Ireland that fears of a sell-out to Dublin were groundless.

As a mood of crisis engulfed the Government over disclosures in *The Times* of proposals for Ulster, he asked for time and trust. The Prime Minister declared that the prize of lasting peace must not be thrown away "by fears that are unreal and accusations that are untrue"..... Pages 1, 2, 3

## Calves protester killed by lorry

An animal rights protester was killed when she fell under the wheels of a lorry delivering calves to Coventry airport for export to the Continent. The woman, who has not been named, was injured when she slipped into the path of the slow-moving lorry after leaping at the cab..... Page 1

## Weather deaths

Torrential rain brought death and destruction to England as statistics confirmed the wettest January for almost 50 years. Twelve rivers were on red flood alert..... Page 1

## Husband jailed

An internationally renowned scientist was jailed for 12 years for trying to murder his wife and for endangering the lives of others by spiking supermarket bottles of tonic water..... Page 5

## Secrecy to end

Secrecy on serious disagreements between ministers and their officials over spending public money is to end, the Nolan inquiry was told. The move could prevent a repetition of the Pergau dam affair..... Page 4

## Crash hero

The BR guard who was killed in the Cumbria train crash had been leading panicking passengers to safety..... Page 9

## Lock cleared

Tony Lock, the former England Test cricketer, was cleared of child sex charges by an Australian court but says he is close to financial ruin..... Page 7

## CSA gloom

Changes to the Child Support Agency will create "rougher justice" and a new wave of complaints, a senior civil servant predicts..... Page 11

## Ernie proves he's still a winner

Ernie may not enjoy the national television exposure given to the National Lottery, but he can still make people very rich. The Electronic Random Number Indicator Equipment has created its first Scottish millionaire. A resident of Edinburgh, who bought the winning bond in June 1992, became Ernie's eleventh million-pound winner..... Page 1

## Dykes crumble

Dykes along the river Waal in the eastern Netherlands showed signs of crumbling, threatening the country's mid-section with 18ft floods..... Page 15

## Whisky closures

Three of Scotland's malt whisky distilleries are to close because of a "whisky lake", prompting fears of another round of cutbacks similar to those of the early 1980s..... Page 7

## £500 cola

A woman who saw her 16-year-old son's bank account discovered he had been charged £500 for a can of cola in a Soho sex club, the Old Bailey was told..... Page 5

## Berlusconi inquiry

Silvio Berlusconi, Italy's former prime minister, is being investigated over the finances of his Milan soccer team..... Page 13

## Blank screen

Stephen Dorrell, the Heritage Secretary, admitted to a parliamentary committee on the film industry he could not recall the last movie he saw..... Page 4

## Ruined hopes

The once-beautiful medieval Bosnian town of Mostar, now run by the European Union, remains ruined and disunited..... Page 12

## Mid-East summit

A summit in Cairo today will try to rescue the deadlocked Middle East peace process..... Page 14



Flooding at Stoke St Gregory, Somerset, turned fields into a vast lake. Three people have died in weather-related accidents. Page 1

## BUSINESS

Economy: America raised interest rates by half a percentage point to damp down inflation..... Page 25

Building societies: Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society will after all grant a bonus from the Lloyds takeover to widows of deceased members..... Page 25

Mobile phones: Shares of Vodafone, the largest mobile-phone company, declined sharply after Sir Gerald Whent, the chief executive, said year-end profits would fall below forecasts..... Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index rose 25.7 points to close at 3017.3. Sterling's trade-weighted index remained unchanged at 88.7. The pound slipped from \$1.5870 to \$1.5815 but rose from DM2.4056 to DM2.4082..... Page 28

## SPORT

Cricket: Michael Atherton says that he had more empathy with last year's England tour party in West Indies than with the present one in Australia..... Page 46

Rugby union: A thigh injury has forced Emile Ntamack, the Toulouse wing, to withdraw from France's team to play England at Twickenham..... Page 43

Motor racing: Haggling over the deal between the McLaren team and Nigel Mansell is threatening to delay announcement of their partnership next season..... Page 46

Racing: François Boutin, who trained 17 French classic winners and landed three British classics and an Irish Derby-Oaks double, has died aged 58..... Page 45

## ARTS

Healthy heroes: Alan Parker's new film *The Road to Wellville* is an exhausting, turn-of-the-century romp through the fictional fortunes of a real Michigan retreat for the rich run by the man who invented cornflakes..... Page 37

Patience unrewarded: Three years after *Leon the Pig Farmer* took prizes at Venice and Edinburgh, Gary Sinyor, who wrote, co-produced and co-directed, has still to make a penny from it..... Page 37

Once too often: Ian Judge's *Edwardian Oxford* version of *Love's Labour's Lost*, back at the Barbican, seems to have lost some of its charm..... Page 38

Opera queen: Stewart Wallace's new opera *Harvey Milk* is provocatively confrontational..... Page 39

## TELEVISION

Erotic renaissance: The Gallic cinema is out-dazzling the US in female star power..... Page 16

Saintly remains: Thomas à Becket's bones, believed to have been burnt and scattered, may still exist..... Page 16

Damaged loon: Two revisionist biographies of Lenin compared by Ian McIntyre..... Page 40

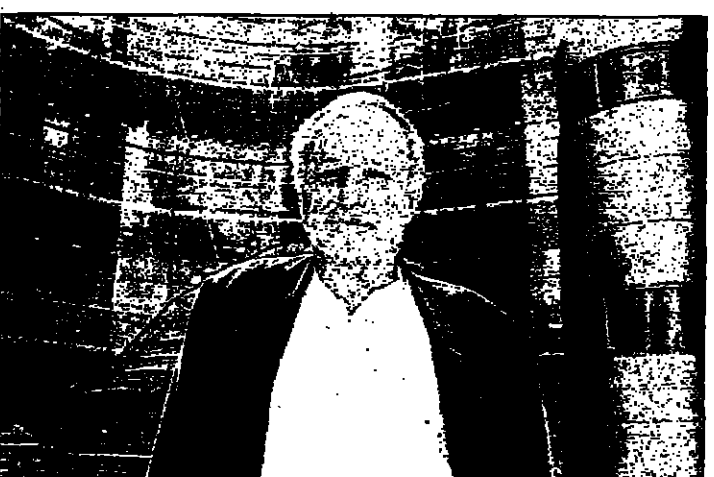
New fiction: Dr Anthony Storr on Michael Bracewell's *Saint Rachel*, a novel about Prozac; *Shelter*, by Jayne Anne Phillips..... Page 41

Hitler's showcase: Norman Stone on the Channel Islands under the Nazis..... Page 40

Children's disease: "Success has depended on the most complex series of medical experiments conducted in this country," Dr James Le Fanu on the cure of acute lymphoblastic leukaemia..... Page 17

Holy smoke: Will victims of cirrhosis of the liver sue drinks firms next? Nigel Hawkes asks whether smokers have a case against tobacco companies..... Page 17

How on earth did US taxpayers end up facing a choice between bailing out the Mexican economy or risking a meltdown of the world financial system? The public deserves answers. And soon. *USA Today*

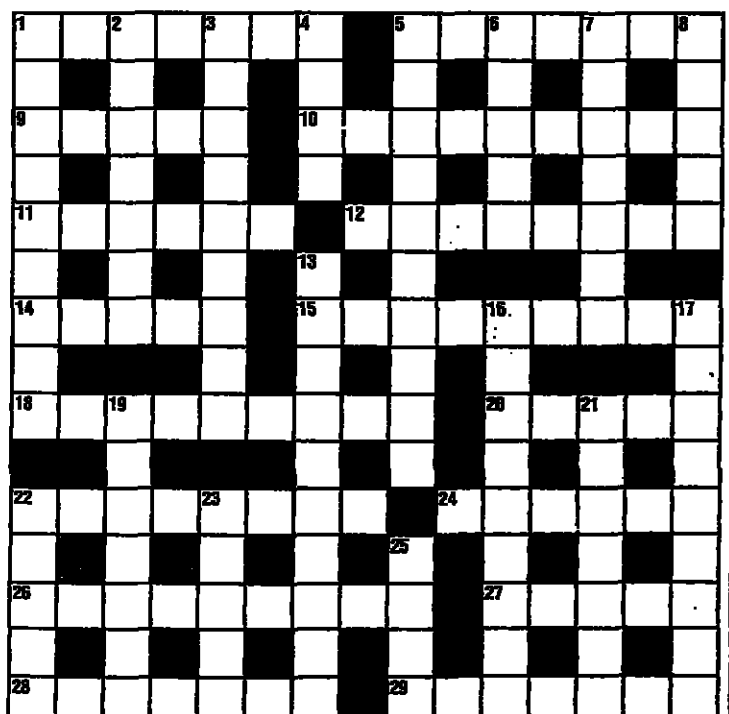


## IN THE TIMES

CITY LIFE  
Valerie Grove meets Sir Richard Rogers, this year's Reith lecturer on cities and survival

SUPER-MOTHER  
Caitlin Moran meets Kristin Hersh, mother, genius and sensitive songwriter

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,768



- ACROSS**
- Starting new climb (7).
  - The Pool of London secure (7).
  - Saki's mountain (5).
  - Art liable to be split between two parties (9).
  - Team comes out of the tunnel eventually (6).
  - Minor road for each to enter in passing (2,3,3).
  - Flower with neat look (2-3).
  - It could disperse thin gloom (9).
  - Emigrant has no right to dwell on (4).
  - Ref for captivating look (5).
  - Chinese fruit (8).
  - Worse in retreat, rebels finally on the way out (6).
  - Worth almost nothing, pay went on being reduced (3,1,5).
  - A cereal — no-one bowl over (5).
- DOWN**
- First lieutenant, that's me ... (6,3).
  - whereas the engineers are Frank and Ernest, by the sound of it (7).
  - Running away from constituent who is out of work (9).
  - Turned up to touch for some brass (4).
  - Flag conveying to marine "message understood" (5,5).
  - Jazz fan attached to church music (5).
  - College servant holding message up — and it's for the head! (7).
  - After he left they all came in to the reckoning (5).
  - Tie-pin came adrift, causing irritability (10).
  - Dug a rifle out, being responsible for safety on beach (9).
  - Ropy decoration for an Aga? (5,4).
  - Game of bridge (7).
  - Go and talk about gym (7).
  - The idea of doctor becoming inverted (5).
  - For instance, a bird seen in a tree (5).
  - Admiral executed a singer, they say (4).

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Region	Forecast
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West of the Universe	723

## HIGHEST &amp; LOWEST

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West of Ireland	734	735
West of Africa	736	737
West of Asia	738	739
West of Europe	740	741
West of North America	742	743
West of South America	744	745
West of Oceania	746	747
West of Antarctica	748	749
West of the Moon	750	751
West of Mars	752	753
West of Jupiter	754	755
West of Saturn	756	757
West of Uranus	758	759
West of Neptune	760	761
West of Pluto	762	763
West of the Sun	764	765
West of the Galaxy	766	767
West of the Universe	768	769

## HOURS OF DARKNESS

Location	Sun sets	Moon sets
London	7:38 am	4:51 pm
West Sussex	7:39 am	4:52 pm
West Midlands	7:40 am	4:53 pm
West of England	7:41 am	4:54 pm
West of Scotland	7:42 am	4:55 pm
West of Ireland	7:43 am	4:56 pm
West of Africa	7:44 am	4:57 pm
West of Asia	7:45 am	4:58 pm
West of Europe	7:46 am	4:59 pm
West of North America	7:47 am	5:00 pm
West of South America	7:48 am	5:01 pm
West of Oceania	7:49 am	5:02 pm
West of Antarctica	7:50 am	5:03 pm
West of the Moon	7:51 am	5:04 pm
West of Mars	7:52 am	5:05 pm
West of Jupiter	7:53 am	5:06 pm
West of Saturn	7:54 am	5:07 pm
West of Uranus	7:55 am	5:08 pm
West of Neptune	7:56 am	5:09 pm
West of Pluto	7:57 am	5:10 pm
West of the Sun	7:58 am	5:11 pm
West of the Galaxy	7:59 am	5:12 pm
West of the Universe	8:00 am	5:13 pm

## LONDON TO PARIS

From	Return
£69	£69
£89	£89
£75	£75

## LONDON TO DUSSELDORF

From	Return
£89	£89

## LONDON TO EDINBURGH

From	Return
£75	£75

## FORECAST

General: after any early mist clears, most of the country will be dry with breaks of sunshine. Cloud will thicken in Northern Ireland and western counties of Scotland, with rain later in the day. Elsewhere dry and quite mild, with increasing cloud.

London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, E England, Channel Isles: any mist clearing, dry with sunny spells, more cloud later. Wind NW light backing southwest, later increasing moderate. Max 8C (46F).

W Midlands, SW England, S Wales, Central N, NE England: mist clearing, dry with sunny spells, cloudier later. Wind NW light, backing S increasing moderate. Max 8C (46F).

N Wales, NW England, Lake

## AROUND BIRMINGHAM YESTERDAY

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Birmingham	10	10	10
Edinburgh	11	11	11
London	12	12	12
Manchester	13	13	13
Newcastle	14	14	14
Nottingham	15	15	15
Sheffield	16	16	16
Sunderland	17	17	17
Swansea	18	18	18
Torquay	19	19	19
Weymouth	20	20	20

## ABROAD

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Algeria	14	14	14
Alexandria	15	15	15
Amman	16	16	16
Ankara	17	17	17
Baghdad	18	18	18
Bangkok	19	19	19
Bombay	20	20	20
Buenos Aires	21	21	21
Calcutta	22	22	22
Cairo	23	23	23
Colon	24	24	24
Hankow	25	25	25
Harbin	26	26	26
Hong Kong	27	27	27
Kobe	28	28	28
London	29	29	29
Lyons	30	30	30
Manila	31	31	31
Medan	32	32	32
Montevideo	33	33	33
Moscow	34	34	34
Mumbai	35	35	35
Nairobi	36	36	36
Paris	37	37	37
Rangoon	38	38	38
Rio de Janeiro	39	39	39
Singapore	40	40	40
Sourabaya	41	41	41
Taipei	42	42	42
Tokyo	43	43	43
Yokohama	44	44	44

## FORECAST

District: sunny becoming cloudy later. Wind S, moderate to fresh. Max 7C (45F).

Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands: clear or sunny spells, cloudier later. Wind S, moderate to fresh. Max 7C (45F).

Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth: clear or sunny spells. Wind southerly, moderate to fresh. Max 6C (43F).

NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland, N Ireland: clear at first, sunny spells, cloudier later, with rain coming from the west. Wind S fresh, later strong locally gale. Max 6C (43F).

Outlook: remaining mild with a band of showery rain edging south, more continuous rain into Northern Ireland and Scotland.

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Colon	24	24	24
Hankow	25	25	25
Harbin	26	26	26
Hong Kong	27	27	27
Kobe	28	28	28
London	29	29	29
Lyons	30	30	30
Manila	31	31	31
Medan	32	32	32
Montevideo	33	33	33
Moscow	34	34	34
Mumbai	35	35	35
Nairobi	36	36	36
Paris	37	37	37
Rangoon	38	38	38
Rio de Janeiro	39	39	39
Singapore	40	40	40
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Sheffield	16	16	16
Sunderland	17	17	17
Swansea	18	18	18
Torquay	19	19	19
Weymouth	20	20	20

## ABROAD

A contour map of a mountainous region. The highest peak is labeled '5700 M'. Contour lines are drawn at intervals of 100 units, with labels ranging from 5700 down to 0. A thick black line with arrows indicates a path or boundary. A scale bar at the top right shows distances of 1000 and 2000 units.





ANATOLE KALETSKY 29

Mexico's misery may be good for the world



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Fractured icon of communist mythology



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Deylaud's flair earns backing from an unexpected quarter

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# THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 2 1995

## C&G gives way over bonus payments for widows

By Robert Miller

CHELtenham & Gloucester has bowed to pressure from MPs and consumer groups and set aside more than £10 million for widows who were excluded from the £1.8 billion bonus payments under the terms of the proposed takeover of the building society by Lloyds Bank.

The offer, which affects 5,000 C&G widows, is conditional on a special Commons Bill, due for its second reading tomorrow, passing through Parliament and on to the

statute books before August 1. That is the "vesting" date when the takeover is completed.

C&G said that Lloyds had agreed to provide the extra money to enable the widows to be paid separately. The society added: "C&G's proposals to join the Lloyds Bank Group should proceed without delay or disadvantage to the mass of C&G investors. C&G has around 900,000 investors."

The exclusion of widows and divorcees, many of whom had been loyal C&G investors for decades,

caused a furore. An action group was formed and the Equal Opportunities Commission investigated.

Under the terms of the bonus offer, qualifying C&G members receive a minimum of £500 for each investment account they have. They will also receive 13 per cent of the balance in each account up to a maximum of £100,000. But C&G's 375,000 borrowers will not receive any bonus payments. However, the society needs to have more than 50 per cent of its borrowers voting in favour of the Lloyds takeover if the

deal is to go ahead. Earlier this week the society attempted to pacify its borrowers by promising that its standard mortgage rate would be held at 0.25 per cent below that of its five main competitors until at least the end of this year.

The crucial Building Societies (Joint Account Holders) Bill which will be debated tomorrow was introduced by Douglas French, Conservative MP for Gloucester. It followed a similar, but not identical Bill, introduced in the Lords by Lord Dubs, the Labour peer. Mr French

said last night: "I'm pleased that the C&G has responded positively to a change in the law which has a very good chance of getting on to the statute books. We have certainly received indications that the Treasury remains in support of my Bill as does the Labour Party's bench Treasury team. I believe it could be law by the end of July and possibly even earlier."

The C&G added that suggestions to delay the special general meeting scheduled for March 31 to discuss the takeover were impractical. The

society added that it would also be "to the distinct disadvantage of over 90 per cent of members who are not in this widows category."

Andrew Longhurst, chief executive of C&G, said: "Replacing an unfair piece of legislation with an impractical one helps no one. All we ask is to be able to pay widows without delaying payment to all those members who qualify today. We will provide £10 million of extra money. Whether the widows get it is up to Mr French and the Government."

### BUSINESS TODAY

#### STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3017.3	(+25.7)
FT-SE 100 All share	1480.41	(+9.85)
Nikkei	18739.47	(+88.85)
Dow Jones	3880.01	(+18.15)
S&P Composite	472.27	(+1.85)

#### US RATE

Federal Funds	5.5%	(5.5%)
Long Bond	97.4	(97.4)
Yield	7.89%	(7.70%)

#### LONDON MONEY

3-month interbank	6.5%	(6.5%)
Life long gth	102.5	(101.5)

#### STERLING

New York	1.5810	(1.5800)
London	1.5595	(1.5791)
DM	2.4152	(2.4108)
FF	1.2885	(1.2850)
Sfr	2.0406	(2.0315)
Yen	155.32	(157.37)
S index	73.9	(73.9)

#### DOLLAR

London	1.5230	(1.5243)
DM	2.2805	(2.2830)
FF	1.2885	(1.2850)
Yen	99.35	(99.63)
S index	73.9	(73.9)

#### TOKYO CLOSE YEN 99.32

#### NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Apr)	\$16.60	(\$16.65)
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#### GOLD

London close	\$376.15	(\$374.65)
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\* denotes midday trading price

## US rates raised by half a point

By Janet Bush, Economics Correspondent

THE US Federal Reserve yesterday raised US interest rates by half a point and said its decision to push up rates for the seventh time since the start of last year was designed to ensure sustained growth but to contain inflation.

The move was widely expected and provides a striking backdrop to today's monetary meeting between Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England. Mr George said this week that although a US rate rise was only one of several factors that would be considered, it would weigh in favour of another rise in British rates.

The Fed said it was raising its discount rate to 5.25 per cent and that that would be allowed to flow through to the

books deteriorating. Decelerating growth in manufacturing is likely to be regarded with satisfaction within the Bank. At the same time, the prices message backs up other recent signs of a modest deterioration in Britain's inflation performance, and this is likely to weigh heavily with the Governor.

On the morning of the monetary meeting, new evidence emerged that pay settlements are continuing to edge up, with annual awards climbing to their highest level for nearly two years in line with rising inflation, according to Industrial Relations Services.

IRS figures show annual pay awards at 3 per cent in the three months to December, compared with a record low of 2 per cent a year ago. The IRS says that December's rise in official inflation figures coincided with a critical phase in the wage round and is likely to feed through into many pay demands. In addition, the IRS said that early settlements in January suggest that higher wage deals will continue. In spite of the intense squeeze on retailers that has characterised the recovery, a clutch of retail sector settlements of 3 per cent or more appear to be in the pipeline.

The Chartered Institute's prices index rose from 71.6 per cent in December to 75.8 per cent in January. Just under 64 per cent of purchasing managers reported higher prices against only 3 per cent reporting lower prices.

On activity, manufacturing grew at its slowest rate since December, 1993. The Institute's Purchasing Managers' Index fell to a seasonally adjusted 53.7 per cent from 56.4 per cent in December. □ House prices in the United Kingdom fell by 0.3 per cent in January, according to the latest monthly index published yesterday by the Nationwide (Robert Miller writes).

The Halifax index, due out tomorrow, is expected to paint a similar picture of a flat housing market. Nationwide says that house prices are now 0.5 per cent lower than they were a year ago.

### Shares surge past the 3,000 level

Investors shrugged off the weather and worries about further rises in interest rates to send the FT-SE 100 index surging back above 3,000. They were spurred on by a positive performance overnight on Wall Street. The index closed up 25.7 at 3,017.3. Market report, page 28

Federal funds rate, raising it to 6 per cent. It said that it perceived continued strength in the US economy and rising capacity usage.

The City is almost unanimously convinced that British base rates will be raised, either after today's meeting, or next month. The last economic indicator before this decision has to be made came from the latest British purchasing managers' report.

The survey from the Chartered Institute of Purchasing & Supply suggested that strong price pressures are evident. But it also showed that the rate of growth in manufacturing industry slowed for the sixth successive month, with growth in output dropping sharply in January and order



Tory faithful: Lord White of Hull, left, chairman of Hanson Industries and Lord Hanson, chairman of Hanson plc, at Hanson's annual meeting yesterday. Lord Hanson defended the firm's £100,000 donation to the Conservatives last year and said: "If Labour gets into power, we just don't know what will happen." (Pennington, page 27)

## Top Capel employee in Anglia share inquiry

By Martin Waller, Deputy City Editor

A FORMER senior employee of James Capel, the City securities house, was investigated by the Stock Exchange over share dealings in Anglia TV before the takeover by MAI a year ago.

Karen Morgan Thomas, who ran Capel's in-house soft commission broking operation until her departure in the autumn, was interviewed by Capel's compliance officer after the share dealings came to light.

The information was passed to the Stock Exchange and from there to the Securities and Futures Authority, the relevant regulatory body, which subsequently approached Capel again for help.

The investigation was part of a number of inquiries by the authorities, including the investigation into share dealings in Anglia by Lord Archer, the millionaire author. Lord

Archer's wife, Mary, was on the board of Anglia when the near £300 million takeover was agreed by that company's board.

Mary Archer announced last month her retirement from the Anglia board. Lord Archer bought shares in Anglia a matter of days before the MAI bid, a move that netted a profit of almost £80,000 for his associate, Brooks Saib, a Kurdish businessman.

The matter caused a political storm. However, Michael Heseltine, the President of the Board of Trade, announced in September that no further action would be taken over Lord Archer's share dealings in Anglia.

No action appears to have been taken by the authorities in Ms Morgan Thomas's case either, and neither the Stock Exchange nor James Capel would comment on the affair.

But it is understood that her

dealings in Anglia shares were registered in the normal way at Capel because of her status as an employee, and that the matter came to the attention of Martin Latham, Capel's compliance officer, because of the proximity of the MAI bid.

He is thought to have passed the information on to the Stock Exchange, which then informed the SFA. Capel did not act for either of the parties to the bid, and there is no suggestion she acquired information in the normal course of her employment.

Ms Morgan Thomas left Capel because of a reorganisation of the department where she worked, sources at the securities house indicated last night. She is thought to have been on a relatively short employment contract, which was paid off in full.

She was understood to have mixed with senior figures in the Conservative Party.

## No single currency for years says IoD

By Our Financial Staff

A SINGLE European currency could be decades away because of the failure of a number of countries to bring their economies into line, Tim Melville-Ross, Director-General of the Institute of Directors, said yesterday.

He told a business lunch in London that it would be "several years, in some cases decades", before these countries, which included Italy, Belgium, Spain, Portugal and Greece, would be able to meet the economic targets for European Monetary Union laid down two years ago by the Maastricht treaty.

"Even if the criteria in the treaty were to be met, there are a number of substantial micro-economic differences between the economies of the different member states — interest rates for mortgage and consumer finance, corporate borrowing, dollar exports, pension funds and many more issues — which make it impossible to adopt a single currency in the future," he said.

He added that Jacques Santer, the European Commission President, and other European leaders pressing for EMU should learn from the previous mistakes and proceed in step with their electorates, who did not want it.

### Bid expected

The stock market marked up yesterday in anticipation of a bid for the company. Favourites to make a bid emerged as P&O, the shipping group that owns the Bovis construction company. Page 28

### Motoring

Ford yesterday announced record financial results to become the world's most profitable carmaker, with its Jaguar subsidiary back in profit for the first time in five years. Ford achieved full-year earnings of \$5.3 billion to top GM, its main rival. Page 27

## Vodafone shares dive on profits warning

By Eric Reguly



Whent: new market

SHARES of Vodafone, the largest mobile-phone company, declined sharply yesterday after Sir Gerald Whent, the chief executive, said that year-end profits would fall below current forecasts.

At one point, the shares were down more than 12p, to 175p. They made up some ground later in the day, finishing at 182½p, down 5½p. Volume, at 32 million shares, was extremely heavy.

Vodafone said it gained 49,000 net new subscribers in January, up 81 per cent from the same month in 1994. "This exceptional increase in subscribers in the last months of the financial year will significantly improve next year's profits, but it must be recognised that the corresponding connection commission

payments will reduce this year's profits below current market expectations," Sir Gerald said.

The company said that each new subscriber costs about £250. The money ultimately goes to dealers.

Investment houses have downgraded their profit forecasts for the financial year ending March 31. Henderson Crosthwaite now expects Vodafone to report pre-tax profits of £370 million, down 4 per cent from its previous forecast of £385 million. Robert Fleming now expects pre-tax profits to fall to £380 million from £395 million. Its forecast for the 1996 financial year remains unchanged at £540 million.

The company had pre-tax profits of £363 million in its last financial year. It appears that many of Vodafone's

new customers are coming from low-use and residential users, a market it has traditionally left to Celtel. "Vodafone has had a change of heart in the consumer market," said Kevin Langford, an analyst with Robert Fleming. "They're looking at it more aggressively now."

The gap between Vodafone and Celtel has narrowed significantly in the past year. Vodafone now has 1.68 million subscribers, only marginally higher than Celtel's 1.61 million.

Celtel would not say how many new customers it gained in January. A spokesman said that Vodafone's January figure "looks disappointing" compared with December, when it signed up 125,000 new customers.

Tempus, page 28

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## Court case may delay pension payouts

By Robert Miller

THE process for compensating investors who were misled by personal pensions has been thrown into confusion.

The High Court last night gave a trade association representing 2,500 independent financial advisers leave to apply for judicial review of the compensation guidelines laid down by City regulators.

The IFA Association and LIBM, a firm of professional indemnity insurers, were allowed by Mr Justice Dyson to mount a legal challenge to guidelines set out by the Securities and Investments Board (SIB), the chief City regulator, and the Insurance Brokers Registration Council.

The SIB had ordered a review of cases in which people were advised to switch from existing or former occupational schemes and into personal pension plans. It has been estimated that the pensions industry faces a £2 billion bill in compensation and costs.

The SIB, which delegated the establishment of a special pensions unit to the Personal Investment Authority (PIA), said: "We believe that our guidance was, and is, well founded. We are glad that the case will be heard by the courts as soon as possible."

Last Friday the PIA completed its consultation with the pensions industry on how best to identify those who were mis-sold personal pensions and how to administer the compensation process. It had hoped that these would be implemented soon. In the light of yesterday's court case, however, many pension investors now face further delays in obtaining compensation.

Garry Heath, chief executive of the IFA Association, said: "We do not believe that our action should in any way be used to delay compensation payments where they are due. But we have every confidence in the strength of our case against the SIB's ruling."

## Chatset accuses Lloyd's of exploiting members

By Jon Ashworth

THE Lloyd's insurance market is cashing in at the expense of its members, it was claimed yesterday, amid renewed forecasts that names will be asked to fund losses of £1 billion for the 1992 underwriting year.

John Rew, of Chatset, the controversial market analyst, said brokers and underwriters continued to take advantage of names despite the promise of market reforms.

Lloyd's, he said, seemed intent on preserving the "golden goose" that had seen fees and commission soar from £6 billion in the "profitable" period from 1984 to 1987, to £11 billion in the "loss-making" period from 1988 to 1991. Much of the rise was driven by

the increase in business surrounding the reinsurance spiral. Mr Rew, who is an aggrieved Gooda Walker name, said Lloyd's was a "gravy train" exploiting members. He said: "There has to be a complete rehabilitation of Lloyd's if it is going to survive. Lloyd's just cannot continue to clean out the names as if there were an unending supply."

Peter Middleton, chief executive of Lloyd's, is leading efforts to reform the insurance market. A Lloyd's spokesman said steps had been taken to tighten control of agency fees.

Market estimates suggest Lloyd's faces a loss of between £600 million and £2 billion for the 1992 underwriting year.

Chatset has settled on a figure of £1 billion — a pure year loss of £250 million coupled with £750 million in claims on open years — but says the figure is little more than a guess at this stage. The final amount will not be known until mid-May. Chatset says falls in bond and gilt prices in the first half of 1994 have added £135 million to the 1992 loss. Premiums are invested under the three-year accounting system. Hurricane Andrew, the biggest single catastrophe of 1992, had a limited impact because the reinsurance spiral had been restructured.

The future appears to be more encouraging, with Chatset predicting a profit of

£800 million for the 1993 underwriting year. It says the profit would be greater but for the cost of the 53 syndicates that ceased trading at the end of that year. Trends for 1994 appear similarly encouraging. Losses associated with the Los Angeles earthquake have escalated from under \$2 billion to more than \$10 billion, but domestic American insurers will pick up the bulk of claims. The net loss to Lloyd's is estimated at \$675 million. Lloyd's has little exposure to the Kobe earthquake, although marine insurers could be affected because Kobe is an important container terminal.

Pennington, page 27



Günter Rexrodt called for settlements in this year's wage round that would pave the way to lasting growth and jobs

## Germany expects stronger growth

GERMANY is enjoying a "strong upswing" expected to deliver 3 per cent growth for the whole country this year, with the east expanding nearer 10 per cent, according to Günter Rexrodt, the economics minister (Colin Narbrough writes).

But the upbeat message contained in his annual economic report yesterday was accompanied by a call to industry and

unions to overhaul the nation's economic and social system. Herr Rexrodt, one of strongest advocates of free market thinking in the German coalition cabinet, said it was because of the favourable economic situation that prevailed that there should be no let-up in social reform.

Against the background this week of warning strikes by the IG Metall, the

powerful metalworkers union, he called for settlements in this year's wage round that would pave the way to lasting growth and jobs.

The economics ministry report foresees the gross domestic product for the whole economy accelerating to 3 per cent this year from 2.8 per cent last year, generating 300,000 jobs.

## Transport policy hijacked, says CBI

By Jonathan Prynn  
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

GREEN pressure groups have hijacked the Government's transport policy at the expense of Britain's business interests, the CBI claimed yesterday.

In its first key transport document since 1989, the CBI claimed there was widespread discontent with the Government's failure to meet companies' transport needs.

The document, *Missing Links: Settling National Transport Priorities*, claimed that recent cuts in roads programmes had confirmed fears that high-profile environmental lobby groups were now setting the agenda at the Department of Transport.

"Businesses are concerned that environmental arguments, such as those advanced by the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution, now dominate the debate on transport policy at the expense of concern about UK competitiveness."

Howard Davies, Director-General of the CBI, said governments in France, Germany and The Netherlands had been more successful than Britain in reconciling the interests of business and the environment. The CBI called on Brian Mawhinney, the Transport Secretary, to provide a clear and explicit statement of the Government's future transport policy to give the private sector more confidence in investing in Britain's transport infrastructure.

Dr Mawhinney welcomed the CBI paper but said "business must recognise more strongly the profound impacts of transport on the environment".

The Government's road programme has been cut by 7 per cent from £2.7 billion to £2.5 billion this year and many planned roads building and improvement projects have been axed.

Britain had among the most crowded roads in Europe and ever increasing congestion needed to be relieved by a sharp rise in spending on its road network, the paper said.

However, environmental lobby groups dismissed the CBI paper. Friends of the Earth said: "In the UK, road-building is not a solution to congestion. It would only create more jams by encouraging people to drive."

## BUSINESS ROUNDOFF

### Nissan chiefs try to block legal request

TWO former Nissan UK executives who were accused of falsely inflating invoices and understating profits by up to £100 million to reduce taxes, applied to the High Court yesterday to stop Swiss authorities passing evidence about them to the Old Bailey. The former assistant managing director, Michael John Hunt, 61, of Hove, East Sussex, was convicted at Southwark Crown Court in June 1993 of one count of conspiring to cheat the Inland Revenue. He was jailed for eight years. One of his three co-accused, is living in Switzerland, from where he cannot be extradited. Yesterday the pair were represented by Alan Jones, QC, who sought to clarify the current legal status of a letter of request sent by the Central Criminal Court to judicial authorities in Switzerland in March 1992. Mr Jones submitted that the letter should now be invalid because criminal proceedings against Hunt and Botnar had finished. He said that the letter sought evidence in the case of Hunt and another accused, Frank Shannon, over a period between 1975 and 1983 in respect of which both had been irrevocably acquitted. If the Inland Revenue wanted any further information, they should approach a new judge and ask for a fresh letter, setting out what has happened.

### MGM cinemas for sale

CREDIT LYONNAIS BANK invited offers to buy its network of MGM cinemas in Europe, a deal that could bring it about 1.7 billion francs. The bank, which is struggling to recover from huge losses during the past two years, said that it owned cinemas in Britain, The Netherlands and, through a joint venture, in Denmark. The three operations are profitable and comprise big property assets, the bank said. It acquired the cinemas in 1992 as a result of involvement in a takeover of the US MGM company.

### Barclays sells in US

BARCLAYS BANK will make an estimated \$50 million profit before tax on the sale of Barclays American Mortgage, its US mortgage servicing business, to a subsidiary of the Norwest Corporation, of Minneapolis. The value of the gain on the sale depends on the definitive value placed on the mortgage servicing assets, currently valued at \$15 billion. Analysts estimate Norwest will have paid between \$250 million and \$275 million for the business, about 1.5 per cent of the value of the assets, and its servicing centre and goodwill.

### BAe 'exclusion threat'

BRITISH AEROSPACE could be excluded from the Airbus consortium for civil aircraft, if Britain fails to buy the planned European military transport aircraft, the Future Large Aircraft (FLA), according to Henri Conze, a French defence procurement official. In an interview with a French newspaper, he said there could be an identity crisis at the Airbus consortium: "If certain FLA partners think the British commitment is insufficient, one could see a European company demanding the disengagement of BAe from Airbus and the FLA."

### Three to run ICI fund

ICI has picked three fund managers to run its £4.6 billion pension fund. It has confirmed that BZW Investment Management will manage about half the fund in UK investments in index funds linked to stock market indices. The rest will be managed by Schroder Investment Management and PDM, which will manage a balanced portfolio including overseas investments. Mercury Asset Management advised on the move from in-house to external management, intended to gain access to larger research resources.

### Cazenove's new index

CAZENOVE & Co, the stockbroking firm that acts for many of Britain's largest companies, is launching the first global smaller companies index. The Cazenove Rosenberg Index, developed jointly with Barr Rosenberg, the US fund managers, will track the fortunes of 7,300 smaller companies in 22 markets in North America, Europe and the Pacific. The index is designed to fill a gap between global market indices, such as MSCI, and the Hoare Govett Smaller Company Index, which monitors smaller UK stocks. *Tempus, page 28*

### Progress at Bucknall

BUCKNALL GROUP, the construction industry management consultancy, reported a pre-tax profit of £105,000 in the six months to October 31, compared with a loss of £226,000 last time. Turnover advanced by 17 per cent to £8.61 million, with a number of large contracts awarded in the UK and overseas. Earnings stood at 0.5p a share, against a loss of 2.2p last time. There is no dividend but the group is taking steps to reorganise its reserves to allow the resumption of dividends. The shares firmed 1½p to 31½p.

### Torex Hire in cash call

TOREX HIRE, the USM-quoted tool, plant and catering equipment hire group, is calling on shareholders for £2.92 million to reduce debts, invest in new plant, buy freehold sites and make further acquisitions. The Devon company is making a three-for-five rights issue, at 50p a share, to raise the cash net of expenses. The issue has been fully underwritten by Allied Provincial Securities. The company is seeking a full listing from the end of the month. Torex shares eased 3p to 60p.

### Square Mile plan

THE CITY CORPORATION is planning to spend £2 million a year for the next three years promoting London's Square Mile as a location for international business and to counter "black propaganda" from rival European financial centres. The corporation's ruling Common Council will consider the proposals today after a compromise in which the corporation and other institutions agreed that no single body should take a sole leadership role. One possibility is the City will seek to attract corporate headquarters or specialist light industries.

## Wellcome's value claim due today

By Patricia Tehan

JOHN ROBB, chairman and chief executive of Wellcome, the drug company, has returned from his global search for a white knight to rescue it from the clutches of Glaxo's £9 billion hostile bid, in order to unveil results for the 16 months to December 31.

Wellcome has brought forward its results announcement by a month, to today, in order to try to prove to shareholders that Glaxo's bid undervalues the company.

The company is moving from an August year end to a December year end, but will produce comparable results. Analysts have been forecasting a rise in pre-tax profits from £624 million to about £700 million.

Mr Robb has been visiting drugs groups in the US. Those thought likely to be approached include Bristol-Myers Squibb, Pfizer, Merck and Johnson and Johnson.

Glaxo does not expect a counter-bidder to emerge. It appears to believe that if Wellcome was unable to find proof of undervaluation to convince the Wellcome Trust, which owns 39.5 per cent of shares, not to commit them to the Glaxo offer, it is unlikely to persuade a white knight to appear. The trust has said that it will sell its stake to Glaxo if no better offer is made within

21 days of the formal offer document.

□ A Washington conference on Aids has been told that the Glaxo and Wellcome combination works — at least in the treatment of Aids victims.

Scientists were presenting data underpinning conclusions that Wellcome's Retrovir in combination with Glaxo's new 3TC provides a better treatment for Aids sufferers than Retrovir alone. Applications for use of 3TC in combination with Retrovir will be filed by Glaxo soon.

The conference was told that the combination had a "prolonged and pronounced effect in suppressing the replication of HIV and increasing the body's immune response".



Robb: case for shareholders

## OFT to root out secret cartels

By Martin Barrow, City News Editor

A CAMPAIGN to identify secret price-fixing and market-sharing cartels will be launched today by Sir Bryan Carsberg, Director-General of Fair Trading.

It will be spearheaded by a new Cartels Task Force, which hopes to drive home the anti-cartel message to business organisations and encourage informants to use a dedicated 24-hour telephone and facsimile hotline. The task force campaign will target purchasing executives, managers and consumers.

Sir Bryan said: "Secret cartels are unlawful. They reduce efficiency and blunt the com-

petitive edge of participating firms. Secret price-fixing agreements invariably result in the exploitation of customers and market-sharing cartels are tantamount to criminal fraud.

"Any third party which can show it has suffered loss as a result of the operation of an unlawful cartel can sue for damages."

The decision to launch the initiative comes after a recent House of Lords judgment. He said that the Office of Fair Trading had been waiting for a ruling from the Lords against a successful appeal by ready-mixed concrete firms

that were found guilty of contempt and fined in 1990. "The House of Lords has now made it clear that companies are responsible in law when their employees participate in unlawful cartel agreements in the course of their employment. This is so even if the employees are ordered not to do so." This was an important turning point, Sir Bryan said. He added: "I still believe the present law on cartels is far from satisfactory, and the powers available are insufficient for my office successfully to root out many cartel arrangements without the help of informants."

## TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.19	2.02
Austria Sch	17.94	18.44
Belgium F	22.36	21.58
Canada C\$	2.32	2.17
Denmark Kr	8.07	7.42
France F	6.56	6.16
Germany DM	2.55	2.35
Greece Dr	386.00	371.00
Hong Kong S	12.87	11.87
Ireland P	1.05	0.98
Italy Lira	2045.00	2045.00
Japan Yen	171.50	153.50
Norway Kr	0.619	0.584
Netherlands Gld	2.51	2.25
Portugal Esc	11.10	10.30
Spain Ptas	200.00	241.50
Sweden Kr	218.00	202.00
Switzerland Fr	12.45	11.85
Turkey Lira	2.16	1.98
USA \$	1.579	1.549

Prices for small denomination bank notes supplied by Barclays Bank plc. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

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□ Hanson keeps giving to the Conservatives □ Finding funds for beds □ Losses still dominate the Lloyd's image

## Boardroom politics

THE annual meetings of Hanson have long been the best show in town. Whether picketed by American mineworkers or American Indians to protest at the goings-on in the group's far-flung empire, or simply a glittering festival to celebrate the business acumen of Lords Hanson and White, they have always been entertaining.

Yesterday, however, Lord Hanson added an extra dimension to the theatrical event by turning it into a political meeting. Provoked by a mild question on political donations, he launched into a tirade against Blair's "Euro-socialist manifesto". This was soapbox stuff, conjuring up the familiar nightmares of loony left councils and seventies-style hyperinflation.

Ignoring the fact that Mr Blair has so far not produced a manifesto that could be called Euro-socialist or anything else, the remarks seemed a blast from the past given the direction that the business community's agenda has moved in the past year. A decade ago, Lord Hanson was one of a doughty band of business leaders who stood four-square behind Margaret Thatcher and her market reforms. They insisted that their companies funded the Conservative party since the threat of another Labour government was

too dreadful to contemplate. Corporate donations to the Conservative Party's fighting funds were political insurance premiums.

Today Lord Hanson is still breathing fire and brimstone, but it has become a lonely battle. A new generation of company managers have grown up who do not remember the pitfalls of running a business in the seventies. They question the ethics of corporate political donations, since they believe their job is to provide shareholders with the highest possible returns. If shareholders want to donate their dividends to their favourite political cause, that is their prerogative.

Just as significantly, many institutional investors are leaning on companies to stop political donations, since they believe the cash would be better invested in the business or distributed. In their view, a board of directors has no more business promoting a political party than a South American junta has in backing its favourite president.

A stream of large companies have reduced or stopped their

political donations, including Argyll, Allied Domecq, Rascal Electronics and Tate & Lyle. Hanson's £100,000 annual donation by contrast stands inviolate. In group terms it is a meagre sum, worth only 2p per 1,000 shares or less than 0.01 per cent of group profit. But its symbolic status is huge. Its existence shows that Hanson still thinks it can play politics with its shareholders' money.

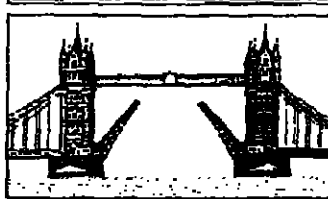
In the past, Lord Hanson's investors have never minded such foibles since the company has made them a lot of money. But now he appears to be swimming against the tide.

### A Close call for nursing homes

THERE IS, they say, nothing as certain as death and taxes. But for much of the population, a third certainty, between paying the one and succumbing to the other, is emerging: a spell in a nursing home.

Demographic trends are conspiring to ensure that the supply of suitable nursing home

### PENNINGTON



beds, already not up with demand, will fall further behind to create a huge funding gap. Around 100,000 new beds will be needed by the end of this century. At a cost of £30,000 a bed, the sort of outlay an operator can expect when building on a greenfield site, the total cost will be £3 billion, to be met by the private sector rather than by the Government, of whatever hue.

Driving this demand is a population that is ageing both literally and proportionately, as longer lives and a lower mortality are matched by a falling birth rate. Meanwhile, psycho-geriatric illnesses like Alzheimer's, requiring residential treatment, if not rising in incidence, are increasingly being diagnosed.

Today, Close Brothers, the merchant bank, will complete a £50 million fund-raising exercise for the first specialised vehicle to invest in the building and purchase of nursing homes. Four operators have already signed up with Nursing Home Properties to finance their respective expansion plans.

NHP is based on Real Estate Investment Trusts that are heavily used in the US to fund property sale-and-leasebacks but are little known in the British healthcare business. The shares will initially be traded on a matched bargain basis and will eventually, after the first placing, be offered to the public: the attraction is a gross yield, once the company is up and running, of 7.4 per cent, backed by bricks and mortar.

Any such venture, as an unknown quality, is inevitably speculative. Another route has been pursued by Associated Nursing Services, which has a joint venture with BZW to fund new homes. But the fragmented nature of the nursing home sector, the difficulty in raising finance and the cost savings available

from the creation of larger companies, suggest the main route for future growth will come from mergers, agreed or otherwise.

### Lloyd's makes profits, for some

THE CYCLE moves slowly at Lloyd's. Just as a goodly number of names are likely to start recording profits, there are hints that the underwriting cycle may already be peaking.

Chaset, a bane of the Lloyd's council because it is often right, reckons that the 1992 underwriting year will show a "pure" loss of about £250 million when the results of the three-year account are announced in May. Losses stemming from Hurricane Andrew were probably bigger than that, however. A good proportion of syndicates should therefore register a profit, which would have been larger but for 1994 losses on the bonds in which premiums are invested.

As already anticipated, the 1993 underwriting year should show a healthy profit, the best part of £1 billion, with another

decent profit in 1994, the first year of the big corporate underwriting vehicles. But Lloyd's has already signalled that premiums are beginning to sag. In the last quarter of 1994, more premium rates fell than rose for the first time since Lloyd's started surveying them in the autumn of 1991. Profits for the 1995 underwriting year may be less buoyant.

Even a glimmer of profit would be manna for some, however. As Chaset notes, most individual names are non-participating, stuck in the stocks taking punishment for old open syndicate years without having a stake in later profits. Estimates of 1994 losses on these open years are sketchy. Chaset is doing little more than splitting the difference between market estimates with its own guess that losses may have risen by £750 million. Losses piled up in many run-off syndicates, some dating back to the mid-1980s. There will be more losses on the old open years this year and next.

These will continue to dominate Lloyd's image until court cases are run through or some global settlement is reached. Lloyd's is tiptoeing towards another attempt. Thanks to the break between old and new Lloyd's, there is now more knowledge of the parameters — and more realism among sufferers. This time, it has to be right.

## Jaguar back to profit as Ford leads rivals

By KEVIN EASON AND SEAN MAC CARTHAIGH

FORD yesterday announced record financial results to become the world's most profitable carmaker, with its Jaguar subsidiary in profit for the first time in five years.

Ford achieved full-year earnings of \$5.3 billion to top General Motors, its main US rival. Sales, production and earnings per share were all dramatically up, underlining Ford's rapid return from recession and providing evidence that the global plan to cut costs by Alex Trotman, the company's British-born chairman, is already having effect.

The announcement that Jaguar is back in the black was among the most encouraging news to come from Ford's European empire.

Jaguar had not made a full-year profit since 1988 nor a profit in any quarter for five years. The luxury carmaker reported an operating profit of \$40 million (£25.8 million) for the last quarter of 1994, with sales up 20 per cent to 8,550.

That was not enough to save off a full-year loss of \$115 million (£74.1 million), but Jaguar is now on an upward trend and could break even next year. Jaguar's new range of XJ saloons is expected to lift output from its Coventry factory from 30,000 last year to more than 38,000 in 1995.

Ford's European operations swung from a \$407 million 1993 loss to earnings of \$388 million. Ford of Britain is not expected to report until spring. The worldwide Ford group's results overshadowed the \$4.9

billion earnings announced by General Motors this week. A fourth-quarter surge pushed earnings to almost twice the 1993 figure of \$2.5 billion.

Ford earned \$1.57 billion, or \$1.47 a share, on revenues of \$33.64 billion in the fourth quarter of last year, up from \$719 million, or 65 cents a share, on sales of \$27.84 billion. The results were well beyond Wall Street expectations of a fourth-quarter performance of \$1.3 billion. Full-year earnings per share of \$4.97 were up from 1993's \$2.27. Annual sales leapt to \$128.4 billion, from \$106.5 billion.

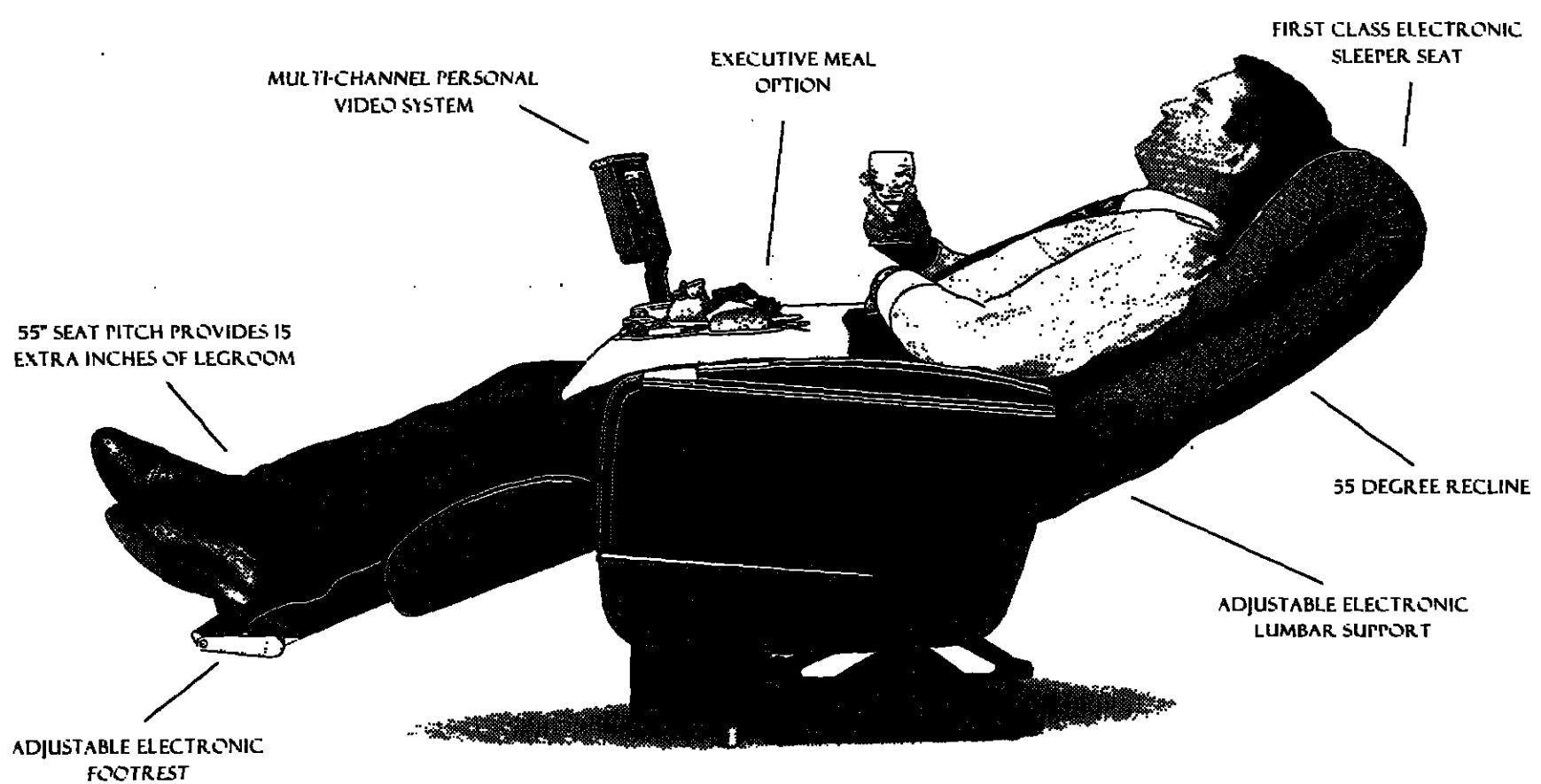
However, the strong showing was tempered by caution over rising interest rates around the world, which could lead to slower sales growth.

Mr Trotman remained optimistic about Ford and expected growth to continue, particularly in Europe and Britain, where Ford cars — the Escort, the Mondeo and the Fiesta — top the best-sellers' list.

He said: "We continue to strive for further improvements needed to reach targeted returns. The fast start on the realignment of our automotive business will result in more product and lower costs in the years to come."

Combined car and truck share in Western Europe was 12.1 per cent, against 11.8 per cent in 1993. UK market share for cars was 21.91 per cent, with sales up from 381,000 to 418,657. Worldwide factory sales were 6.6 million (\$9 million in 1993).

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### Homecraft acquired for £29m

By CARL MORTIMER

SMITH & NEPHEW, the healthcare group, is expanding its rehabilitation business with the £29 million acquisition of Homecraft Holdings.

Smith is paying cash for the makes products used to assist the house-bound elderly and disabled. Sales last year were £12.6 million and Homecraft made profits of £2.9 million.

John Robinson, chief executive of Smith, said the group was a leader in the rehabilitation market, with a 20 per cent share of world sales. "It accounts for only 3-4 per cent of group sales, but the market is growing at about 15 per cent per annum," he added.

Homecraft sells its products, described as "aids for daily living", to government healthcare organisations and Smith hopes to expand its market share through the group's sales network in America and throughout the world.

Smith has been refocusing on three areas, wound management, orthopaedics and rehabilitation.

### Extra £100m loss for Sun Alliance

By NEIL BENNETT  
DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

SUN ALLIANCE, Britain's largest insurer, has revealed it will suffer an additional £100 million loss on mortgage indemnity policies in its 1994 figures because of a change in its accounting policies that aims to stem the on-going losses it has suffered on old policies for the past four years.

The change will increase mortgage indemnity losses to more than £150 million for 1994, and bring the total that the group has suffered from the business since 1991 to almost £750 million.

Sun was the largest insurer of domestic mortgages before the recession, with a fifth of the market, and found itself paying for the losses on tens of thousands of repossessions when the property market collapsed. It has decided to record losses on its indemnity policies on all mortgages that are heavily in arrears and on homes that are likely to be repossessed. Previously, it recorded losses only on homes that had been repossessed and sold.

The extra losses will reduce group profits to an estimated £300 million for 1994.

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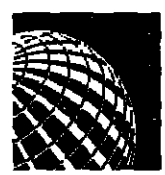
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THE Takeover Panel has been informed of a draft research note on Wellcome by Robert Fleming Securities, whose corporate finance division on the other side of the Chinese Wall is advising the charitable Wellcome Trust. The bank advised Wellcome Trust to sell its 39.5 per cent Wellcome stake to hostile bidder Glaxo, without realising that Jan White, its pharmaceuticals analyst, was about to urge clients to buy Wellcome shares in anticipation of a trebling of sales of Retrovir, its AIDS drug. White penned: "Whilst we are not anticipating a takeover bid for Wellcome or a merger, we think that the value of the company in such a transaction provides an important, additional safeguard to investors." Like medicine, the draft research was for internal consumption only, though it had been given limited circulation to clients. The note has now been stopped in its tracks.

## Ice work

ROB DAVIES, ten years a mining analyst in the Square Mile, is leaving Smith New Court for Barings Securities where, appropriately, he will follow mining issues and emerging markets. Davies, 41, has not only dug up gold and copper in Australia, but once served HMG as a geologist in Antarctica. I trust he has stayed in touch with his penguin contacts who can on-pass to Barings information about which ice cap to look under, for mineral deposits.

## Sir Omen

IT USED to be nomination as Young Businessmen of the Year that presaged corporate disaster. But can a knightship now be the omen? Last week it was Sir Geoff Mulcahy of Kingfisher who shocked the City. Yesterday it was new year-honoured Sir Gerald Whent of Vodafone Group who issued a profits warning.



'Never mind flood levels — what's happening to interest rates?'

## Swiss break

ONE man who won't be jumping up and down on any trampolines at the City's newest health club, which opened yesterday in the Lloyd's building and is run by the Mike Corby Group, is Ian Strachan — soon to leave RTZ for BTR. At the weekend, skiing in Switzerland, Ian broke his left leg. However, my St Bernard's dog reports that Ian is already back on his feet and has started to hobble.

## Ringing tone

ADRIAN Ridley-Jones, a consultant with Logica, the UK computer and software group, is feeling rather chuffed with himself. In a 1991 study for a Japanese bank on the European mobile phone market, he predicted that in 1994 UK mobile phone users would number 3,151,000. A recent survey shows that by the end of December there were 3,202,843 users. And his six numbers for this week's National Lottery are...

COLIN CAMPBELL

ECONOMIC VIEW

ANATOLE KALETSKY

Why Mexico may have done  
the world a good turn

Investors in  
submerging  
markets should  
be forced to  
face up to  
their mistakes

THE World Economic Forum this weekend in Davos was unannouncedly reminiscent of the IMF annual meeting in Toronto in 1982. Mexico is a country that two months ago would not even have appeared on the radar screens of most of the business magnates, financiers and politicians who come to Davos each year in search of new ideas and trends or simply to make contacts and do deals. Yet this week, there was one question on everyone's lips: what will happen to Mexico?

It was just the same 13 years ago. The worried bankers and finance ministers who descended on Toronto in September 1982, were obsessed with the debt moratorium announced by Mexico a month before. But few of them suspected that Mexico's inability to pay its debts would be only the prelude to a global debt crisis destined to dominate all international financial policy-making for a decade.

Fewer still realised that Mexico would soon trigger defaults in Brazil, Argentina, Venezuela, Nigeria, the Philippines and dozens of other developing countries. And none at all predicted that this financial disaster, which condemned the whole of Latin America to a "lost decade" of economic depression and culminated in loan losses worth far more than the combined capital of all the big American banks, would coincide with a worldwide bull market in equities, an unprecedented surge in the dollar and the longest expansion of world economic activity for 20 years.

Could some of the same global consequences, both for good and for ill, flow from this latest chapter in the saga of incompetence and irresponsibility which is the history of Mexico's relations with international capitalism?

Certainly, the latest debt crisis seems bullish for the dollar. As in the early 1980s, American investors and banks have been responsible for most of the flows of money into the emerging markets. Now that Wall Street has rechristened these countries "submerging markets", the dollar is likely to be boosted, just as it was after 1982. But beyond this narrowly financial observation, are there any parallels between 1982 and today?

According to the best informed opinion, the answer is no. From Davos to Jakarta, from George Soros to Bill Clinton, there is one thing the experts are all agreed on: this is not 1982. The key differences are constantly restated. The risks of worldwide contagion are much smaller than they were 13 years ago, because the Mexican economy is far sounder and other developing countries are even better man-

aged than Mexico. The world financial system is not at risk, because the people facing losses this time are not banks, but stock market investors. The other great difference lies in the world's response. Policymakers have learnt from the mistakes of the 1980s. In spite of the nail-biting delays, it has taken Washington less than a month to produce a \$50 billion financial rescue after this crisis; in the 1980s, it took seven years before American bankers acknowledged their losses and politicians faced up to economic reality by legalising the Mexican default under the Brady Plan. All this is true, yet I still suspect this crisis will prove as far-reaching as the one of 1982.

It is certainly true that most Third World economies are now more soundly managed than they were in the early 1980s. It is also true that Mexico's problems are now more unusual than they used to be among the countries of Latin America. Mexico has proved far more impervious than most of its neighbours to the main lesson of 1982: that developing countries should not support overvalued exchange rates and rely for their development on "foreign savings". Against these and other differences, however, there is one all-important similarity between the crises today and in 1982.

The fundamental problem in both cases was a financial bubble: an international flow of money that had long since gone beyond the bounds of normal financial prudence, and was being sustained by a combination of herd instinct, short-sightedness and economic ignorance. Brazil may not have a big current account deficit like Mexico. Malaysia may be better managed and Hong Kong may have better

long-term prospects, but all have had their financial markets distorted by the same global mania for emerging market investment. Regardless of the relative soundness of their economic fundamentals, therefore, all of these countries will have to suffer from the bust that inevitably follows an unsustainable financial boom.

The reaction of the monetary authorities today also has a crucial point in common with 1982. In both cases, the G7 governments, led by Washington, have tried to protect their financiers from the consequences of their own stupidity by conjuring up vast rescue packages. But the markets will not suspend disbelief forever, especially if on close inspection, much of the money in the rescue packages does not exist. I suspect that the \$50 billion package put together this week for Mexico may start to crumble at the edges once governments start to argue over which of their taxpayers are putting up the money and why. But even if the Mexican package does offer real money, it will come too late for investors who have already seen the value of their assets fall by half.

Just as the Mexican bailout of 1982 did nothing to make banks more willing to lend to other developing countries, the latest package will not persuade stock market investors to keep their money in markets that remain overvalued, such as Argentina, Thailand or Brazil.

It seems, therefore, that a generalised meltdown in emerging markets is likely, even if President Clinton's Mexican package survives the scrutiny of next weekend's meeting of the G7. But, unlike other Cassandras I believe that

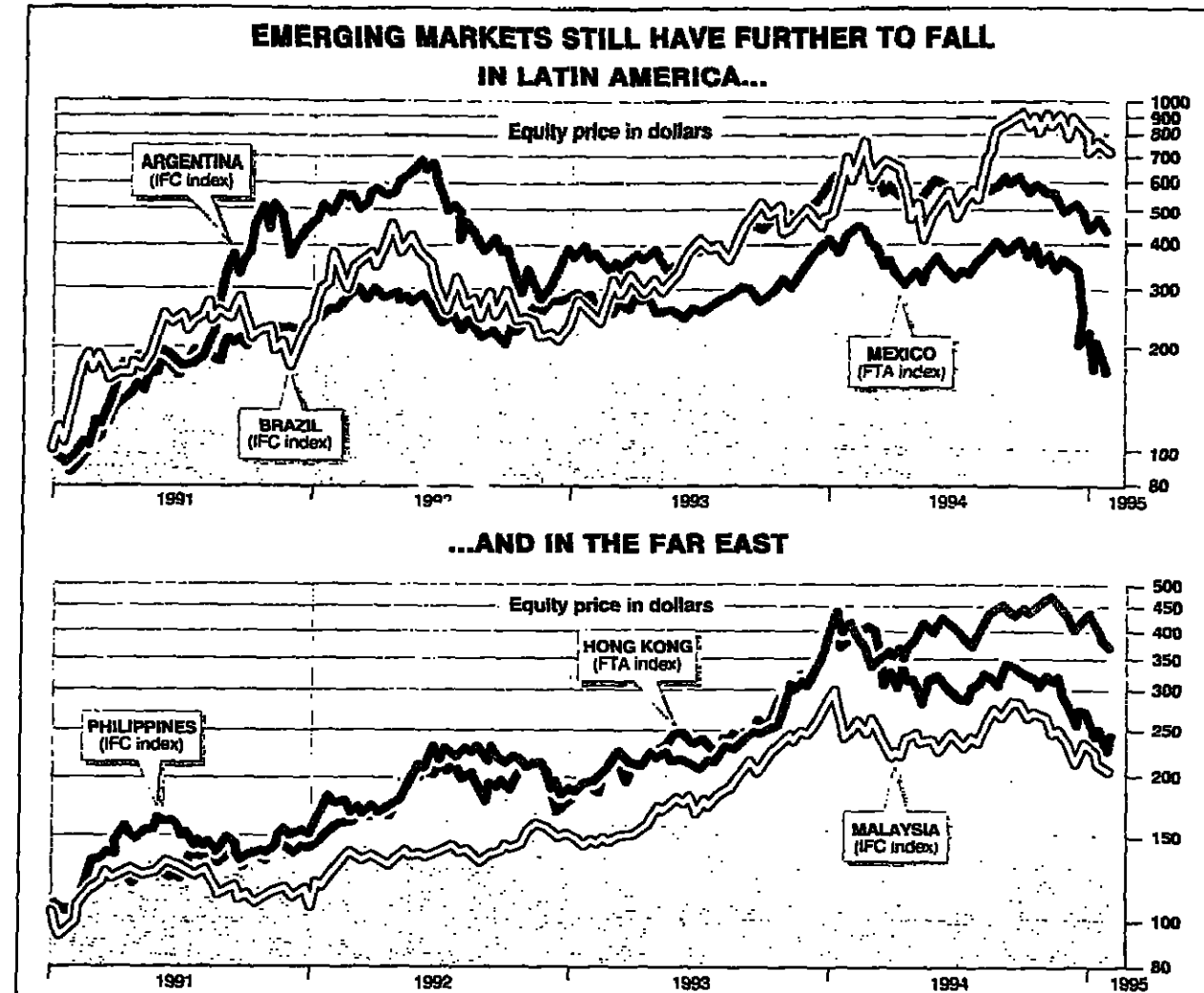
such a collapse could actually be quite helpful to the world economy. Throughout the 1980s I argued that a formal default and writedown of debt by the Third World would actually be good for the world economy. Today, I can also see some major benefits from forcing investors in Mexico and other submerging markets to face up to their mistakes.

First, the end of the global boom in emerging market investment, a boom that has blown up the total value of Third World stock markets from \$400 billion to \$2.1 trillion in just five years, seems thoroughly healthy. Unstable capital inflows, encouraging rampant speculation, have rarely been helpful for economic and social development in the Third World.

The lure of apparently enormous investment returns in emerging markets has also been disruptive of attitudes to risk and reward in the mature economies. Too many businessmen and investors in Europe and America have been asking themselves why they should be up money into industrial projects at home for returns of 10 or 15 per cent, when putting money on the Thai or Mexican stock markets offers a return of 20 to 30 per cent a year. The answer, which has always been clear, is now even more obvious: an investment that grows by 30 per cent a year for four years is likely to fall by 50 per cent in year five.

The more reliable way to share in the rapid growth of developing countries is to reap a reward for entrepreneurship: that means actually managing industrial or commercial facilities in the Third World, or investing in multinational companies which do this.

The second unexpected benefit of the Mexican crisis lies in

BT chief scores  
an own goal  
in pay debate

Philip Bassett on the aftermath of  
Sir Iain Vallance's "flip remark"

While most things that business and other leaders say tend to pass into the ether, some quotes stick for ever. Gerald Ratner's remarks about some of his former company's products are one example. Now Sir Iain Vallance, BT chairman, is in the spotlight.

The reverberations of his remark on Tuesday to the all-party Commons Employment Select Committee were still resounding yesterday. In the midst of a steadfast and unembarrassed defence of his £633,000 salary package, Sir Iain said he normally worked a 70-hour week. He then said: "I would quite like a job as a junior doctor in the NHS. It might be relaxing."

As he finished saying the words, Sir Iain clearly knew he had made a big mistake. The taut, serious faces of his media advisers behind him told their own tale. MPs on the committee could barely believe what they had heard.

As he finished saying the words, Sir Iain clearly knew he had made a big mistake. The taut, serious faces of his media advisers behind him told their own tale. MPs on the committee could barely believe what they had heard.

**"A moment of  
madness — like  
Cantona's  
kick"**

It was a moment of madness — like watching Cantona kick into the crowd. The mercurial French footballer and the smooth Sir Iain make an unlikely comparison. But just as the Manchester United star will have to live with his actions, so Sir Iain will have to come to terms with his inappropriate comparison between how many hours he puts into his job with those of a group of people well known for being overworked and underpaid.

Business leaders, even — perhaps especially — those as successful as Sir Iain in terms of the performance of the company he heads are rarely subjected to close questioning. Equally, they tend not to have a high regard for many of the MPs on the Commons committees to which, increasingly, they have to give evidence.

None of this much matters, in one sense. BT's share price is unlikely to rock in the way that Ratners did, for instance. But in another sense it does, because of the high levels of public concern about the pay of senior company executives. In fact, Sir Iain had some good points to make about his own pay —

giving strong evidence, for instance, that there is for senior information technology (IT) managers an international competitive market in a way that there simply is not for managers of UK regional electricity companies. The chairman of AT&T in America, for example, is paid £1,592,000, and his IBM counterpart £1,750,000. BT has lost senior executives not just to Mercury and Eonergy in the UK, but to US telecom and IT companies, and by these measures, Sir Iain's salary clearly is uncompetitive.

For someone about to serve under Sir Richard Greenbury, Marks and Spencer chairman, on the CBI's government-approved committee on executive pay, Sir Iain will find it hard, probably impossible, to live down his 17 words.

Eric Cantona will be back playing football, and Sir Iain will continue to run Britain's largest private sector company. But both will forever be haunted by a brief few seconds when they went over the top.

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- Specialising: what you need to know
- Creating the marketing culture
- Proposals: a winning strategy
- Increasing business from existing clients
- Local government as clients
- Fees as a marketing tool

The fee of £340, plus £59.50 VAT, has not increased since last year and includes the Cafe Royal lunch, coffee, speakers' notes, documentation and service.

Attendance is professionally important. If it is relevant to accountants it will qualify for 18 CPE points with the ICA. For solicitors, it counts for seven hours towards CPD with the Law Society.



Tactics of competitive marketing will be outlined by James Gemmell, chairman of Clark Whitehill Associates. Brochures and newsletters, how to exploit opportunities and recognise niches and the technique of targeting will be covered. Delegates will be told of the importance of the professional image. The speaker is responsible for building his firm's corporate business base.

## THE TIMES

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## Familiar questions raised by the proposed Glaxo-Wellcome takeover

From Mr Monty Meth  
Sir, When the Beecham Group tried to merge with Glaxo in 1971 the issue was referred by the Health Commission to the Monopolies Commission, which ruled against it in July 1972 saying: "There are no good grounds for believing that the merging of Beecham and Glaxo would result in more promising ideas than if the two continued to work independently. Indeed, the elimination of competition seems more likely to lead to fewer ideas" (paragraph 249). With hindsight, perhaps the Commission was right. Bee-

cham certainly went on to produce Augmentin, its world-leading antibiotic, and other successful treatments for life-threatening diseases. Glaxo launched Zantac in 1981, now the largest selling product in the world pharmaceutical market, and many other medicines.

It is true that the global market is almost 23 years older and much more developed since the Monopolies Commission said the Beecham-Glaxo merger would operate against the public interest because the "international competitiveness of the

industry would be impaired with adverse effects on this country's balance of payments" (paragraph 253).

Yet is the time lapse the only reason why the Glaxo-Wellcome takeover — not merger — is being viewed differently today? Has the Department of Trade and Industry considered referring the bid to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, or does it no longer care about the elimination of another British-owned pharmaceutical company?

The Glaxo bid for Wellcome may be the best thing for Britain. But should the sharehold-

er value and market forces alone be allowed to determine the future of two great companies and the livelihood of thousands of people they employ? Does the Wellcome Trust not have the responsibility to say publicly why it has reneged on its pledge that it would "not solicit or encourage takeover offers for the company" until 1997?

It is a sad commentary on our recent industrial performance that we are now left relying on the Charity Commissioners and the High Court to approve or block Britain's largest ever takeover bid.

Is nobody today prepared to question, as the Health Government did, whether shutting a £360 million research and development programme, largely centered in Britain, and the loss of some 17,000 jobs is in the public interest — or does that no longer matter to a country whose people made pharmaceuticals one of its most successful industries?

Yours sincerely,  
MONTY METH,  
57, Lakehead, N14.

## ACCA is not 'junior'

From Mrs Anthea Rose  
Sir, Pennington (January 25) mentioned that the "six professional (accountancy) bodies asked a distinguished former president of a junior body" to draw up a plan for the future organisation of the accountancy profession. Pennington is right, the chairman of CCAB Working Party on the Future

Structure of the Accountancy Profession and former president of the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants (ACCA), David Bishop, is "distinguished".

He is wrong, though, about the ACCA. The association is the second largest — and fastest-growing — accountancy body in the UK and the largest, genuinely international, accountancy body in the

world. Current membership and student numbers stand at 155,000. ACCA enjoys full statutory recognition under UK companies and financial services legislation. Hardly a "junior body".

Yours faithfully,  
ANTHEA L. ROSE,  
Chief Executive,  
The Chartered Association of Certified Accountants (ACCA),  
29 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2.



# Belling pensions depend on ruling by the Law Society

By Robert Miller

HUNDREDS of members of the Belling pension scheme face reductions in future benefits if the Law Society continues to reject a multi-million pound claim against its compensation fund.

Belling & Co, famed among generations of students for its Baby Belling cooker, went into receivership in 1992. Law Debenture, the firm of independent trustees appointed after Belling collapsed, yesterday said that if the Law Society rejects a third application for a \$3.5 million claim, it will have to cut back on benefits for 855 deferred members of the pension scheme, many of whom

are soon to retire and draw on the fund.

The trustees added that even if its claim is met in full, members may not escape unscathed. The Belling scheme is already paying pensions to nearly 700 people.

The trustees have based their claim on the fact that the \$3.5 million in question was pension fund money taken from the Belling scheme and paid to the client account of a firm of solicitors, with a sole practitioner. The money was advanced interest on a \$50 million loan to Belling from another company of which the solicitor was a director. The

loan was never paid and the \$3.5 million has not been recovered.

The solicitor was declared bankrupt in 1993. He has been charged by Staffordshire Police, working in conjunction with the Serious Fraud Office, with 16 counts of alleged fraud, totalling \$30 million. It is understood that the Staffordshire Fraud Squad has now broadened the scope of its investigation.

Law Debenture has argued that the Law Society has an obligation to pay compensation because the solicitor was a member of the society.

In its initial ruling on Law Debenture's claim, lodged in November 1992, the Law Society's compensation fund committee rejected it on the grounds that the loss of pension fund assets was "primarily the responsibility of the scheme's trustees", although there was no suggestion of any wrongdoing on their part.

An appeal against that decision in March last year was rejected for the same reason.

Last October, Law Debenture applied to the High Court for judicial review of the Law Society decision. A month later, the Law Society, which has 62,000 practising members in England and Wales who have to pay annual levies to fund the solicitors compensation scheme, decided to re-hear the application. This could be considered next month, although, because of the complexity of the case, it may be held over until April.

The Belling claim is the largest single call ever made on the Law Society compensation fund, which last year paid out a record £23 million.

Tim Eggar, Energy Minister and MP for Enfield North, where many of the Belling pension scheme members live, has taken a close interest in the case. He said yesterday: "I will continue the battle on behalf of my constituents."

## Aid for small firms is 'badly targeted'

By Our City Staff

THE British Chambers of Commerce (BCC), representing 200,000 businesses, yesterday criticised government schemes to assist small firms, describing them as diffuse, poorly targeted and opaque, putting small firms "at a disadvantage compared to their competitors".

The BCC was giving evidence to MPs on the Trade and Industry Select Committee.

It believes that the Business Link Initiative is "particularly helpful and a significant step towards addressing the deficiencies". But regional grants are described by the chambers as blunt instruments doing little to foster real growth in capacity, competence, or competitiveness of British firms.

The BCC was pleased that a structure of business support was already in place thanks to government-fund-

ed Training and Enterprise Councils (TECs) and Local Enterprise Councils (LECs).

However, it said that Britain is "some way from the goal of a network of well resourced independent business lead bodies offering quality assured service throughout the UK, which is recognised by statute and financed, in part, by a sustainable source of funding".

The BCC has also criticised banks by saying that reliance on short-term overdraft funding has compounded the problems of small businesses. It is seeking initiatives such as "mutual loan guarantee schemes or linking the provision of finance to management training".

In its evidence the BCC also called for changes in commercial law, particularly the legal aspects of insolvency and costs.

## Broker extends its spread on Asia

By Patricia Tehan  
Banking Correspondent

Michael Marks says SNC's joint venture is part of a long-term commitment to India

SMITH NEW COURT, the broker, has strengthened its presence in Pakistan and India with two deals worth about \$3 million. The deals are part of its expansion strategy in the subcontinent and Asia through joint ventures.

SNC has exercised an option to buy 30 per cent of International Securities, a Karachi broker. The other 70 per cent is held by United Distributors, a Pakistani trading group with interests including tobacco, oil and computers.

The broker, renamed Smith International Securities (SISL), was set up 18 months ago. At the time SNC entered into a "technical assistance" agreement to set up a research department, and took an option to buy the stake.

SNC hopes SISL will become a leading broker in the Pakistan domestic market, as well as providing research and dealing services to its international client base.

The net asset value of SISL following the exercise of the option is expected to be about \$1.2 million.

SNC is also to take a 51 per cent stake in a new stockbroking joint venture in India with IIT Investtrust, an institutional and fund management company. The new company will be a full service stockbroker with a net asset value of about \$3 million.

Michael Marks, SNC chairman, said the Indian joint venture is a demonstration of the firm's "long-term commitment" to the Indian market.

SNC has joint ventures in Sri Lanka and Malaysia, and has two "technical assistance" agreements in Bangkok and Jakarta that should lead to joint ventures over the next two years.

Tempus, page 28

## French Connection appoints new chief

By Susan Gilchrist

FRENCH Connection, the USM-quoted fashion group, has appointed a new chairman after the resignation of George Wardale.

The new chairman is David Bernstein, formerly managing director of Pentland Group, the sportswear company. Stephen

Marks, French Connection's founder and chief executive, said that Mr Bernstein was ideal to take the group forward.

Mr Bernstein was responsible at Pentland, for identifying acquisition opportunities, and his appointment suggests that French Connection is entering a more aggressive growth phase.

Mr Wardale is leaving to take on the

chairmanship of Libra Health Group, a small private hospital company. He joined French Connection in 1991 after it came close to collapse through over-ambitious diversification. Together with Mr Marks, he has revitalised the group by selling loss-making businesses and refocusing on its French Connection and Nicole Farhi brands.

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English Churches Housing Group is a Christian based association providing three in service roles.



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All candidates must have at least two years experience in a relevant field. They will show evidence of original thought and be capable of expressing complex ideas simply and logically. A background in utility regulation or the water industry is desirable.

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For further details and an application form (to be returned by 24 February, 1995) write to Esther King, Office of Water Services, Centre City Tower, 7 Hill Street, Birmingham B5 4UA or telephone 0121-625-1471 (answering service operates outside office hours).

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## ACCOUNTANCY

## Disagreeing with Mr Mitchell

Ian Plaistowe defends auditors  
and the set of proposals outlined  
in 'The Audit Agenda' document

It is a pity that Austin Mitchell continues to bombard the press with articles containing errors (January 5). They detract from and obfuscate the good points that he does make.

The Auditing Practices Board (APB) and Mr Mitchell share a passionate interest in audit. Thus the APB's statement of objectives says that it "is committed to leading the development of auditing practice... to establish high standards of auditing; meet the developing needs of users of financial information; and ensure public confidence in the auditing process".

We do not suggest that the proposals that we made in "The Audit Agenda" are a solution for all time or to all auditing issues, present and future. They are not. But they are steps to be taken now which are mostly deliverable now.

What are the things on which Mr Mitchell and we agree? That audit is an important aspect of our financial system and we need to do all we can to enhance its quality. On the need for proper training and education, strong supervision, discipline and for dealing with the pressures

which result from audits with reduced fees. Our profession already has guidance on most of these matters, but we called for better training and education — just as Mr Mitchell did.

We too wish to ensure that the objectivity of auditors is not impaired by the performance of other services for audit clients. That is why we suggested that the audit committee approves such appointments. That is why we suggested that the audit engagement partner should not be responsible for selling other services for the firm.

But, unfortunately, Mr Mitchell confuses his concerns by disguising them in clouds of hyperbole, some self contradiction and sweeping assertions. Here are examples of his contradictions or errors.

1. "The report... offers a galaxy of new money-making schemes... for work which should be done anyway."

How can one reply to a sentence like that? When did you stop beating your wife?

"The Audit Agenda" includes a number of proposals responding to user needs. They may involve some cost, but Mr Mitchell points out the danger of defining audit solely by cost.



Ian Plaistowe agrees with some of Austin Mitchell's points

Does he suggest that auditors should not respond to user demands such as reporting on systems controls?

2. "The APB deflects attention by painting failures as a result of individual incompetence."

Rubbish. Where does that appear in "The Audit Agenda"? Yes, we do encourage individuals to sign audit reports in their own names on

individuals who took the key decisions on behalf of a firm.

3. "The Audit Agenda" is emitted (sic) on behalf of the big firms by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales."

Not true. It was issued by the Auditing Practices Board without asking for the approval of any other organisation.

4. "Partners from major firms were consulted. Joe Public wasn't."

Not true. "The Future Development of Auditing", the predecessor publication, was published for wide consultation. In preparing "The Audit Agenda", the APB took account of the public's comments on the earlier paper and consulted interested parties including regulators, members of the accounting profession and others.

I could go on and on in correcting Mr Mitchell. But what is important is not his contradictions and mistakes but what "The Audit Agenda" says. It is part of the process of raising standards to meet public expectations of auditors. It contains new suggestions (many far-reaching) on enhancing auditors' independence and for increasing the reliability of information published for shareholders. We should recognise it for what it is — a large step in the right direction.

Ian Plaistowe is chairman of the Auditing Practices Board.

## Consistency is the key issue

THERE are two schools of thought on the content of company reports. Pack them with information so that end-users can sift out what they require. Or strip them back to a minimum of statutory information and argue that this enables end-users to see the essential information with greater clarity.

Neither argument has much to do with the understandability of the relevant accounts. But it is a dilemma which is growing in importance. This is clear from the latest survey of published accounts. "Financial Reporting 1994-95" — a survey of UK reporting practice is the latest in a 26-year sequence of publication by the English ICA. And, as has become the practice in recent years, it focuses in detail on several topical issues and provides essential survey data and analysis on the rest. Covering the UK's top 300 companies, it gives a clear idea each year of how the nation's corporate leaders are facing up to their responsibilities.

This year's is no exception. When it comes to disclosure of foreign currency exposure, a third of FTSE 100 companies provide none. This at a time when exposure to risk is being seen as a key matter to communicate to investors. Of the top 100 companies, 7 per cent provide no disclosure of their property valuations and the rest tend to provide figures which vary widely between the recent to ten-year-old valuations.

As for the issue of capital instruments, Professor Len Skerratt, of Manchester University, and David Tonkin, managing director of Company Reporting, the co-authors, report how FRS4, the new standard dealing with the issue is correcting some of the "sillier treatments" of capital instruments. But they also report how reluctant companies were to make sense of their figures. Only as the guillotine started to drop did many of them make any effort at all. "As the date for mandatory adoption approached," report Skerratt and Tonkin, "many companies made moves towards aligning themselves with the standard. Very seldom," they say, "was full adoption of the terms of the standard seen."

They also argue that a greater attention to the accounts as fashion statements is occurring. Companies will pay lip service to the day's big issue, but drop it when it becomes less fashionable. A few years back, Tonkin recalled, annual reports all had a lengthy statement which came under the heading of

"environmental reporting." "Now it is vanishing," he said, "and when I ask companies why it's gone, they tell me 'this year it's the Cadbury code that we are highlighting'."

But even this is only appearing by omitting other sections of the report. "It is unfortunate to note," says Peter Chidgey in his assessment of auditors' and directors' responsibility statements, "that the onset of SAS 600 (the relevant auditing standard) has meant that auditors' statements of responsibilities, included separately within financial statements, have begun to disappear... It is perhaps inevitable, however, that such non-mandatory disclosures are the first victims of the competition for space in company reports."

The other area where companies were turning a lack of a direct line of responsibility to their advantage was that of the Cadbury code of best practice. In a section by Rowan Jones and Andrew Piger, they argue that the system whereby auditors review directors' compliance with the code is flawed. "Companies are not required to disclose the results of the auditors' review and readers may therefore be unaware of the scope of the review and its conclusions," says the survey. It also points out a further flaw. "Auditors are required to review the directors' statement of compliance, but not the actual actions of directors which are taken to achieve compliance."

In other words, the auditors' "sanction" of the statement of compliance could be interpreted as confirmation of compliance with the code itself. The authors conclude that "the end result is merely the publication of the directors' opinions, possibly ambiguously stated, on whether or not the code is being complied with."

But the real issue which comes over from the survey is that of the auditors. As Skerratt put it: "The Accounting Standards Board has got rid of things like extraordinary items because they were unauditable. It has succeeded in limiting the choices available to companies. Now the key question is for auditors to audit consistently."

As we know from the current phoney debate about the choice between judgment and rules, auditors would prefer greater freedom to make it up as they go along. We can expect future years' surveys to show ever-expanding disparities in reporting practice.



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## Editors spoiling for a fight

THE editors of the annual survey of UK reporting practice, *Financial Reporting*, always put up a good argumentative show at each year's launch of the latest issue. This year was no exception. Professor Len Skerratt and David Tonkin were in fine form. Skerratt insisting that "in critical areas the level of disclosure in financial reports is extremely low", and Tonkin saying he was "a great believer in the disclosure of large

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

amounts of information so people can pick over the bones. Finance directors will hate me for this but it would also help analysts to become more effective." At this point, people paused to check if pigs were flying past the windows.

## Called to account

THE English ICA, meanwhile, is brushing aside criticisms of its own accounts. The annual report of the chairman

of its communications committee says that "a new-look annual report and accounts provoked some adverse comment at the annual meeting as not everyone appreciated the vibrant front cover and the 'comic cut' illustrations". But it remains unfazed. "The number of complaints was negligible," it concludes.

## Open to abuse

MEANWHILE, the latest re-

port from the English ICA council on open meetings says that "on occasions, the open agenda has been so thin as to raise suspicions, however unwarranted, that 'interesting' items are taken behind closed doors". Indeed, but it continues: "Equally, some apparently innocuous public items have given rise to debates that have been difficult to handle in public relations terms. However, we must not be too sensitive. Even the most innocent

item is capable of exploitation by an adroit journalist." Surely not.

## Samaritans

IT HAS been left to the enterprising London Society of Chartered Accountants to bail its institute out. It has set up a helpline service for worried accountants and in particular those who feel that talking over their problems with Moorgate Place will lead to a knock on the door from a regulator. Details on 0171 490 4390.

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Applications enclosing a curriculum vitae with the names and addresses of two referees should be sent to the Chief Justices' Clerk, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 1HF by Friday, 10th February 1995. Interviews will be held on Monday, 27th February 1995.

A job description and person specification may be obtained from Mrs T Rose, telephone (01284) 722362

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Further details and an application form may be obtained from Angela Francis on 071 278 2468 Ext. 2142. Completed applications to be received no later than Friday 10 February. Personnel Department, City and Guilds of London Institute, 76 Portland Place, London W1N 4AA. Interviews are scheduled for 21 February (preliminary) and 24 February (final).



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Small, rapidly expanding Holland Park based Mobile phone hire company requires highly organised numerate individual to run our Accounts Dept. Experience to include Sage bookkeeping, Word Perfect admin, pricing invoices, payments and receipts. To start early/ mid February. Salary to £18,000 pa. (inc) Call Sue or Kate on 071 229 4648 (No agencies) or fax CV 071 792 0423 in strictest confidence.

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To succeed in this fast-moving environment, you will need well-developed business and financial planning skills, combined with a persuasive manner and the capability to negotiate sound capital investment agreements. You will ideally be of graduate calibre and are likely to be aged between 26 and 45. Whether you are from the licensed trade or have a background in retail or sales and marketing, it is essential that you can demonstrate a keen interest in making money from leasing retail assets and brands. You will also be capable of applying an analytical approach to all areas of business consultancy.

The rewards will be as great as the demands. In return for your experience, enthusiasm and commitment, we can offer a competitive salary, company car and benefits package that fully reflects the important contribution you will make to Scottish & Newcastle Retail's future.

To apply, please write with full CV to: Mark Lewis, Recruitment Manager, Tyne Inns, Tyne Brewery, Gallowgate, Newcastle NE9 9RA, stating which areas within the north of the country you would be interested in working in.



## Share prices bounce back

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1994/95	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
<b>BANKS</b>						
523	380	375	Barclays	45	4.4	14.3
314	310	305	HSBC	35	4.0	11.9
271	265	260	London City	32	3.8	11.5
240	235	230	Midland	28	3.6	11.1
210	205	200	Paragon	24	3.4	10.7
180	175	170	Prudential	20	3.2	10.3
150	145	140	Royal Bank	16	3.0	9.9
120	115	110	Scottish	12	2.8	9.5
90	85	80	Westminster	9	2.6	9.1
60	55	50	Yorkshire	6	2.4	8.7
30	25	20	Yorkshire	3	2.2	8.3
<b>DISTRIBUTORS</b>						
127	122	117	Asda	12	4.0	11.9
100	95	90	Debenhams	10	3.8	11.5
80	75	70	John Lewis	8	3.6	11.1
60	55	50	Next	6	3.4	10.7
40	35	30	Primark	4	3.2	10.3
20	15	10	Primark	2	3.0	9.9
10	5	0	Primark	1	2.8	9.5
<b>BREWERIES</b>						
1025	1020	1015	Asahi	102	4.0	11.9
815	810	805	Beck's	81	3.8	11.5
610	605	600	Carlsberg	61	3.6	11.1
410	405	400	Heineken	41	3.4	10.7
210	205	200	Kaiser	21	3.2	10.3
110	105	100	Orkla	11	3.0	9.9
60	55	50	Orkla	6	2.8	9.5
30	25	20	Orkla	3	2.6	9.1
<b>DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS</b>						
380	375	370	Admiral	38	4.0	11.9
310	305	300	British Airways	31	3.8	11.5
240	235	230	British Telecom	24	3.6	11.1
170	165	160	British Airways	17	3.4	10.7
100	95	90	British Airways	10	3.2	10.3
60	55	50	British Airways	6	3.0	9.9
30	25	20	British Airways	3	2.8	9.5
<b>BUILDING &amp; CONSTRUCT</b>						
300	295	290	Arrol-Johnston	30	4.0	11.9
240	235	230	Bechtel	24	3.8	11.5
180	175	170	Bechtel	18	3.6	11.1
120	115	110	Bechtel	12	3.4	10.7
80	75	70	Bechtel	8	3.2	10.3
40	35	30	Bechtel	4	3.0	9.9
20	15	10	Bechtel	2	2.8	9.5
<b>ELECTRICITY</b>						
100	95	90	British Nuclear	10	4.0	11.9
80	75	70	British Nuclear	8	3.8	11.5
60	55	50	British Nuclear	6	3.6	11.1
40	35	30	British Nuclear	4	3.4	10.7
20	15	10	British Nuclear	2	3.2	10.3
10	5	0	British Nuclear	1	3.0	9.9
<b>ELECTRONIC &amp; ELECT</b>						
100	95	90	British Telecom	10	4.0	11.9
80	75	70	British Telecom	8	3.8	11.5
60	55	50	British Telecom	6	3.6	11.1
40	35	30	British Telecom	4	3.4	10.7
20	15	10	British Telecom	2	3.2	10.3
10	5	0	British Telecom	1	3.0	9.9
<b>HOUSEHOLD GOODS</b>						
100	95	90	British Telecom	10	4.0	11.9
80	75	70	British Telecom	8	3.8	11.5
60	55	50	British Telecom	6	3.6	11.1
40	35	30	British Telecom	4	3.4	10.7
20	15	10	British Telecom	2	3.2	10.3
10	5	0	British Telecom	1	3.0	9.9
<b>INSURANCE</b>						
100	95	90	British Telecom	10	4.0	11.9
80	75	70	British Telecom	8	3.8	11.5
60	55	50	British Telecom	6	3.6	11.1
40	35	30	British Telecom	4	3.4	10.7
20	15	10	British Telecom	2	3.2	10.3
10	5	0	British Telecom	1	3.0	9.9
<b>ENGINEERING</b>						
100	95	90	British Telecom	10	4.0	11.9
80	75	70	British Telecom	8	3.8	11.5
60	55	50	British Telecom	6	3.6	11.1
40	35	30	British Telecom	4	3.4	10.7
20	15	10	British Telecom	2	3.2	10.3
10	5	0	British Telecom	1	3.0	9.9
<b>BUSINESS SERVICES</b>						
100	95	90	British Telecom	10	4.0	11.9
80	75	70	British Telecom	8	3.8	11.5
60	55	50	British Telecom	6	3.6	11.1
40	35	30	British Telecom	4	3.4	10.7
20	15	10	British Telecom	2	3.2	10.3
10	5	0	British Telecom	1	3.0	9.9
<b>CHEMICALS</b>						
100	95	90	British Telecom	10	4.0	11.9
80	75	70	British Telecom	8	3.8	11.5
60	55	50	British Telecom	6	3.6	11.1
40	35	30	British Telecom	4	3.4	10.7
20	15	10	British Telecom	2	3.2	10.3
10	5	0	British Telecom	1	3.0	9.9

1994/95	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
<b>ENGINEERING, VEHICLES</b>						
100	95	90	British Telecom	10	4.0	11.9
80	75	70	British Telecom	8	3.8	11.5
60	55	50	British Telecom	6	3.6	11.1
40	35	30	British Telecom	4	3.4	10.7
20	15	10	British Telecom	2	3.2	10.3
10	5	0	British Telecom	1	3.0	9.9
<b>FOOD MANUFACTURERS</b>						
100	95	90	British Telecom	10	4.0	11.9
80	75	70	British Telecom	8	3.8	11.5
60	55	50	British Telecom	6	3.6	11.1
40	35	30	British Telecom	4	3.4	10.7
20	15	10	British Telecom	2	3.2	10.3
10	5	0	British Telecom	1	3.0	9.9
<b>LEISURE &amp; HOTELS</b>						
100	95	90	British Telecom	10	4.0	11.9
80	75	70	British Telecom	8	3.8	11.5
60	55	50	British Telecom	6	3.6	11.1
40	35	30	British Telecom	4	3.4	10.7
20	15	10	British Telecom	2	3.2	10.3
10	5	0	British Telecom	1	3.0	9.9
<b>MINING</b>						
100	95	90	British Telecom	10	4.0	11.9
80	75	70	British Telecom	8	3.8	11.5
60	55	50	British Telecom	6	3.6	11.1
40	35	30	British Telecom	4	3.4	10.7
20	15	10	British Telecom	2	3.2	10.3
10	5	0	British Telecom	1	3.0	9.9
<b>PROPERTY</b>						
100	95	90	British Telecom	10	4.0	11.9
80	75	70	British Telecom	8	3.8	11.5
60	55	50	British Telecom	6	3.6	11.1
40	35	30	British Telecom	4	3.4	10.7
20	15	10	British Telecom	2	3.2	10.3
10	5	0	British Telecom	1	3.0	9.9
<b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS</b>						
100	95	90	British Telecom	10	4.0	11.9
80	75	70	British Telecom	8	3.8	11.5
60	55	50	British Telecom	6	3.6	11.1
40	35	30	British Telecom	4	3.4	10.7
20	15	10	British Telecom	2	3.2	10.3
10	5	0	British Telecom	1	3.0	9.9
<b>TEXTILES &amp; APPAREL</b>						
100	95	90	British Telecom	10	4.0	11.9
80	75	70	British Telecom	8	3.8	11.5
60	55	50	British Telecom	6	3.6	11.1
40	35	30	British Telecom	4	3.4	10.7
20	15	10	British Telecom	2	3.2	10.3
10	5	0	British Telecom	1	3.0	9.9
<b>OTHER FINANCIAL</b>						
100	95	90	British Telecom	10	4.0	11.9
80	75	70	British Telecom	8	3.8	11.5
60	55	50	British Telecom	6	3.6	11.1
40	35	30	British Telecom	4	3.4	10.7
20	15	10	British Telecom	2	3.2	10.3
10	5	0	British Telecom	1	3.0	9.9

1994/95	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
<b>PHARMACEUTICALS</b>						
100	95	90	British Telecom	10	4.0	11.9
80	75	70	British Telecom	8	3.8	11.5
60	55	50	British Telecom	6	3.6	11.1
40	35	30	British Telecom	4	3.4	10.7
20	15	10	British Telecom	2	3.2	10.3
10	5	0	British Telecom	1	3.0	9.9
<b>SPIRITS, WINES &amp; CIDERS</b>						
100	95	90	British Telecom	10	4.0	11.9
80	75	70	British Telecom	8	3.8	11.5
60	55	50	British Telecom	6	3.6	11.1
40	35	30	British Telecom	4	3.4	10.7
20	15	10	British Telecom	2	3.2	10.3
10	5	0	British Telecom	1	3.0	9.9
<b>SUPPORT SERVICES</b>						
100	95	90	British Telecom	10	4.0	11.9
80	75	70	British Telecom	8	3.8	11.5
60	55	50	British Telecom	6	3.6	11.1
40	35	30	British Telecom	4	3.4	10.7
20	15	10	British Telecom	2	3.2	10.3
10	5	0	British Telecom	1	3.0	9.9
<b>PRINTING &amp; PAPER</b>						
100	95	90	British Telecom	10	4.0	11.9
80	75	70	British Telecom	8	3.8	11.5
60	55	50	British Telecom	6	3.6	11.1
40	35	30	British Telecom	4	3.4	10.7
20	15	10	British Telecom	2	3.2	10.3
10	5	0	British Telecom	1	3.0	9.9

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-651	-652	-653	-654	-655	-656	-657	-658	-659	-660	-661	-662	-663	-664	-665	-666	-667	-668	-669	-670	-671	-672	-673	-674	-675	-676	-677	-678	-679	-680	-681	-682	-683	-684	-685	-686	-687	-688	-689	-690	-691	-692	-693	-694	-695	-696	-697	-698	-699	-700	-701	-702	-703	-704	-705	-706	-707	-708	-709	-710	-711	-712	-713	-714	-715	-716	-717	-718	-719	-720	-721	-722	-723	-724	-725	-726	-727	-728	-729	-730	-731	-732	-733	-734	-735	-736	-737	-738	-739	-740	-741	-742	-743	-744	-745	-746	-747	-748	-749	-750	-751	-752	-753	-754	-755	-756	-757	-758	-759	-760	-761	-762	-763	-764	-765	-766	-767	-768	-769	-770	-771	-772	-773	-774	-775	-776	-777	-778	-779	-780	-781	-782	-783	-784	-785	-786	-787	-788	-789	-790	-791	-792	-793	-794	-795	-796	-797	-798	-799	-800	-801	-802	-803	-804	-805	-806	-807	-808	-809	-810	-811	-812	-813	-814	-815	-816	-817	-818	-819	-820	-821	-822	-823	-824	-825	-826	-827	-828	-829	-830	-831	-832	-833	-834	-835	-836	-837	-838	-839	-840	-841	-842	-843	-844	-845	-846	-847	-848	-849	-850	-851	-852	-853	-854	-855	-856	-857	-858	-859	-860	-861	-862	-863	-864	-865	-866	-867	-868	-869	-870	-871	-872	-873	-874	-875	-876	-877	-878	-879	-880	-881	-882	-883	-884	-885	-886	-887	-888	-889	-890	-891	-892	-893	-894	-895	-896	-897	-898	-899	-900	-901	-902	-903	-904	-905	-906	-907	-908	-909	-910	-911	-912	-913	-914	-915	-916	-917	-918	-919	-920	-921	-922	-923	-924	-925	-926	-927	-928	-929	-930	-931	-932	-933	-934	-935	-936	-937	-938	-939	-940	-941	-942	-943	-944	-945	-946	-947	-948	-949	-950	-951	-952	-953	-954	-955	-956	-957	-958	-959	-960	-961	-962	-963	-964	-965	-966	-967	-968	-969	-970	-971	-972	-973	-974	-975	-976	-977	-978	-979	-980	-981	-982	-983	-984	-985	-986	-987	-988	-989	-990	-991	-992	-993	-994	-995	-996	-997	-998	-999	-1000	-1001	-1002	-1003	-1004	-1005	-1006	-1007	-1008	-1009	-1010	-1011	-1012	-1013	-1014	-1015	-1016	-1017	-1018	-1019	-1020	-1021	-1022	-1023	-1024	-1025	-1026	-1027	-1028	-1029	-1030	-1031	-1032	-1033	-1034	-1035	-1036	-1037	-1038	-1039	-1040	-1041	-1042	-1043	-1044	-1045	-1046	-1047	-1048	-1049	-1050	-1051	-1052	-1053	-1054	-1055	-1056	-1057	-1058	-1059	-1060	-1061	-1062	-1063	-1064	-1065	-1066	-1067	-1068	-1069	-1070	-1071	-1072	-1073	-10
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## PRIVATE HEALTH

FOCUS

Private health operators are hoping for an upturn, but competition from the NHS pay sector is cutting in on their market

## Managed care — the perfect cure?

Jeremy Laurance on the health of the industry since the heady 1980s

The short life and sudden death of Britain's largest private hospital showed just how badly private health operators could get the market wrong.

The failure of the Clydebank Hospital, outside Glasgow, was one of the most spectacular commercial miscalculations of 1994. Opened in June, the luxury institution, built with £15 million of taxpayer's money, was in difficulties by September and called in the receivers in November. With 240 beds it was reported never to have had more than 20 patients at any one time.

The embarrassing episode demonstrates how hard it is to predict the twists and turns of the private health market. For the past four years it has been going nowhere. The public remains loyal to the National Health Service, despite regular scares about declining standards. The private health care market has stayed firmly in the doldrums into which it was plunged in 1990.

Hopes that 1994 would bring a resumption of the growth in subscribers last seen in the 1980s were dashed. For the fourth year running, the total number of subscribers is expected to remain at about 3.3 million.

But if times are hard for the insurers, times are good for the insured, or those contemplating taking out insurance. A plethora of deals are on offer as the companies compete for a slice of a static market.

Growth in the private hospital sector has slowed to 3-4 per cent in real terms over the past two years, compared with the double digit growth rates of

the 1980s. The plateauing of numbers covered by private insurance and the fall in patients paying for themselves, especially those from abroad, has hit business — as the ill-fated Clydebank Hospital found.

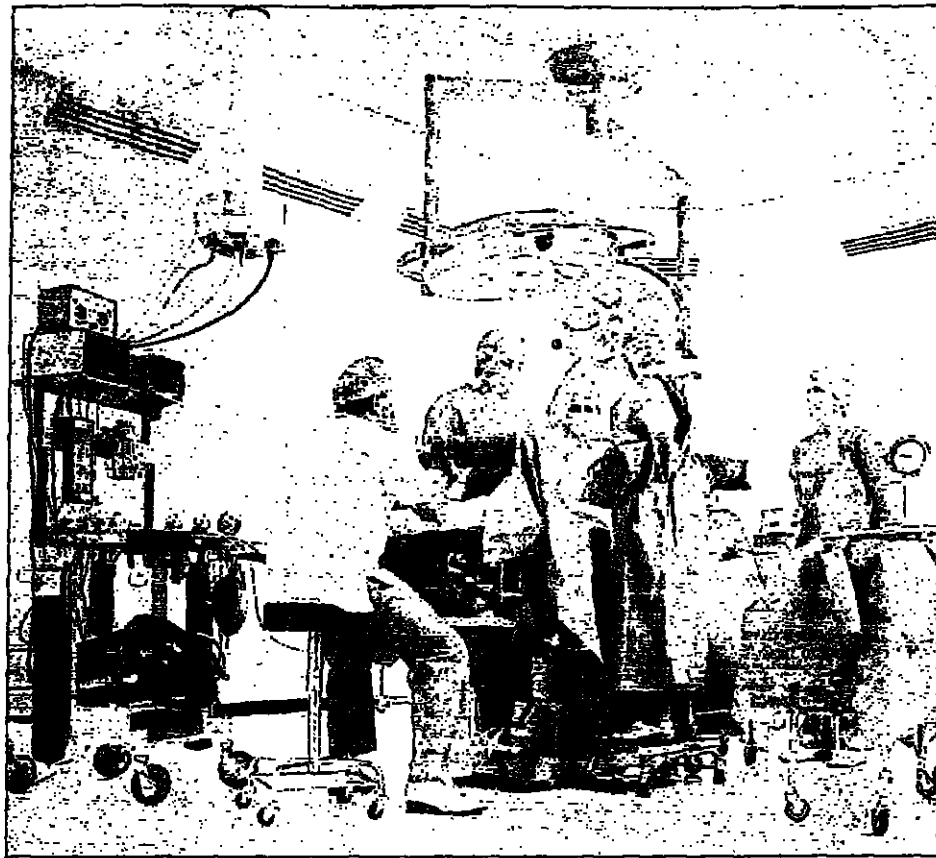
One flip for private hospitals in 1994 was a renewed upward trend in claims — more operations performed for the same number of policyholders. However, a bonus for the hospitals puts the insurers' margins under pressure.

William Laing, of Laing and Buisson, the private health consultants, says 1995 could herald the start of a new period of growth. Insurers are investigating new low-cost schemes that could reinvigorate the market.

There is growing interest in "managed care", in which insurers limit claims by giving subscribers a restricted choice. In most cases, this means subscribers choose from a list of preferred hospitals for their treatment which excludes the most expensive. It may also mean obtaining approval in advance for treatment from the insurer so that other options can be considered.

However, one company, Foundation Health, is planning to extend the principle to a list of approved specialists from whom patients must seek treatment. These specialists will agree in advance to follow certain protocols for specific conditions in order to ensure best treatment and avoid unnecessary costs.

The principle of using protocols to guide care is well established in America where private insurance is the norm



To keep costs at a sensible and affordable level for all its customers, Bupa is to provide consultants with guidelines on best practice in 60 of the commonest conditions

and the pressure to cut costs intense. In Britain, however, private health care is a luxury market in which unfettered choice is a key selling point.

A similar but less draconian initiative has come from Bupa which has begun sending consultants details comparing their private treatment costs with those of their colleagues. Claims for hip replacements, for example, range from £3,800 to £9,400 and stays in hospital from five to more than 20 days. In one private hospital five private surgeons doing hip replacements had

average lengths of stay ranging from eight to 16 days.

Bupa plans to issue guidelines to consultants on best practice in 60 of the commonest conditions. But they will be guidelines, not orders.

"It is an educational tool. They are not hammering people with it yet, but they have the potential to," Mr Laing says. "All these companies are developing the potential to use managed care if and when the market is ready for it. But it is not ready yet because it is a luxury market."

For private hospitals, a new

source of competition has emerged in the shape of NHS pay beds. Long ignored as of little significance, the NHS reforms and the independence that has come with trust status has given NHS hospitals a fresh incentive to compete for a slice of the private market.

Their success is plain from the sharp rise in the NHS's market share over the past couple of years. The total earned by the NHS from private work rose by 25 per cent in 1992-93 compared with 2 per cent growth for independent private hospitals. In 1993,

the NHS earned £170 million from private work, 15 per cent of the market.

Some analysts believe the NHS's private income could rise to £400 million in two years' time, creating problems for Labour which is committed to phasing out NHS pay beds. If it were to do so, it would lose the surplus and trigger a boom in the independent private sector.

Laing's Review of Private Healthcare is published annually by Laing and Buisson, Lymehouse Studios, 35 Georgiana Street, London NW1 0EB (0171-284 1268).



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Why patients are moving away from National Health Service dentists

Private dental care is no longer a luxury just the rich can afford. According to the Department of Health, more than 1 million people have deregistered from their National Health Service dentist since 1992.

The reason for this mass exodus from the NHS is the Government's health reforms, which have effectively cut NHS dentists' pay by 7 per cent.

Since 1990, the Department of Health has managed to cut its dentistry costs from £1.5 billion to £1.2 billion. And, since 1992, 404 dentists have given notice to remove their names from the Family Health Service Association because they are dissatisfied with the NHS.

There are two key issues driving people away from the NHS. The first is the amount of time NHS dentists can afford to spend with each patient. The second, the quality and standard of the materials dentists can afford to use if they stay within the NHS.

Since the Government scythed 7 per cent off NHS dentists' fees, dentists have been under increasing pressure to squeeze in as many patients as possible. "Some are even seeing as many as 60 people a day," Meredith Bell, a general practitioner from Cumbria, says. She sees an average of 30 patients a day.

Like many others, she has opted out of the NHS, although members of her practice still see NHS patients. "I advised my patients that I was planning to see them only privately, and gave them the option either to stay with me or to start seeing one of my colleagues. Sixty per cent of them stayed with me. Of that 60 per cent a further 60 per cent have taken out dentistry healthcare plans: the remaining 40 per cent pay as they go."

Mrs Bell charges £15 for a check-up and warns anyone thinking of taking out an insurance scheme to make sure that the rate charged by their dentist will be met by the policy.

## The root of the matter



Private dentists can spend more time with patients

Nicholas Kieft, a former NHS patient from Marlow in Buckinghamshire, switched to a private dentist three years ago. Fears of receiving sub-standard care drove him and his family to opt out of the NHS. He said his dentist had told him that if he stayed on as an NHS patient the quality of his dental treatment would

suffer. Mr Kieft is glad he made the switch and believes the quality of care he, his wife and three-year-old son receive is far better than under the NHS.

He says his policy has more than paid for itself already. He pays £21 a month for a Norwich Union policy and looks at his premium payments as a way to spread the cost.

In comparison with Mrs Bell, however, the Harley Street practitioner Stuart Jacobs only sees about eight

patients a day. He opted out of the NHS in 1981 because he was frustrated by the standards. "I could not do the quality of work I wanted to," he says. "When I was in the NHS I did three fillings in 20 minutes — today they do five. Now I take 45 minutes just to do one."

He is sceptical about dental healthcare plans, claiming that the premiums will have to be very high to meet a lifetime's dental care. But at the end of the day it can cut the overall costs, he says.

There are now a number of insurance companies offering dental health care cover. The first to enter the market was Denplan. It has since been taken over by PPP.

Last year, Denplan commissioned a survey in response to the Government's Green Paper on dental reforms. Five hundred dentists were asked for their views. It found that three out of four dentists would be more likely to opt out of the NHS now, and that 85 per cent are unlikely to take on new NHS patients.

And in line with the Department of Health's statistics showing that there has been a mass exodus of patients from the NHS, Denplan's survey predicts that only 30 per cent of the British population will be treated under the NHS by the end of the decade. Denplan also found that dentists fear the quality of their work will suffer under the NHS.

Mr Kieft's insurer, Norwich Union, adopts the same approach to insurance as Denplan. Both of them focus on preventive care and encourage patients to go for regular check-ups. "At the end of the day, it is up to the patient to get his or her money's worth," says Jim Baker, Norwich Union's commercial director.

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# Ready, steady and get fit

Many companies would prefer their employees to exercise. John Stansell on the benefits of keeping healthy

**C**redit Suisse-First Boston has sponsored LivingWell Health and Leisure to build a multimillion-pound health club in its Canary Wharf headquarters. This should help its employees to become and remain fit. Warburgs has a corporate membership for 800 of its staff at Cottons, a health club near London Bridge. Each employee is fitness-tested when he or she joins, and is then given a regular programme of activities ranging from working out in the gym, swimming and aerobics to using saunas and spas.

Many large corporations — BT, Pirelli and Mobil, to name a few — have their own health units within the sports and social clubs they have provided for their staff. A look through *Yellow Pages* will reveal several pages of organisations, ranging from schools and sports centres to private companies, selling fitness as a commodity.

It is impossible to know precisely how big this business is. It is unregulated and its trade body, the Fitness Industry Association (FIA), does not have comprehensive membership, although it does claim to be the only body which sets standards for the industry. Stuart Duff, LivingWell's European projects manager, says health and fitness clubs are "a growing phenomenon in Britain, following America, both in their operation and the services they offer. Their existence is concurrent with an increasing public awareness of health and lifestyle issues, and with the Government's

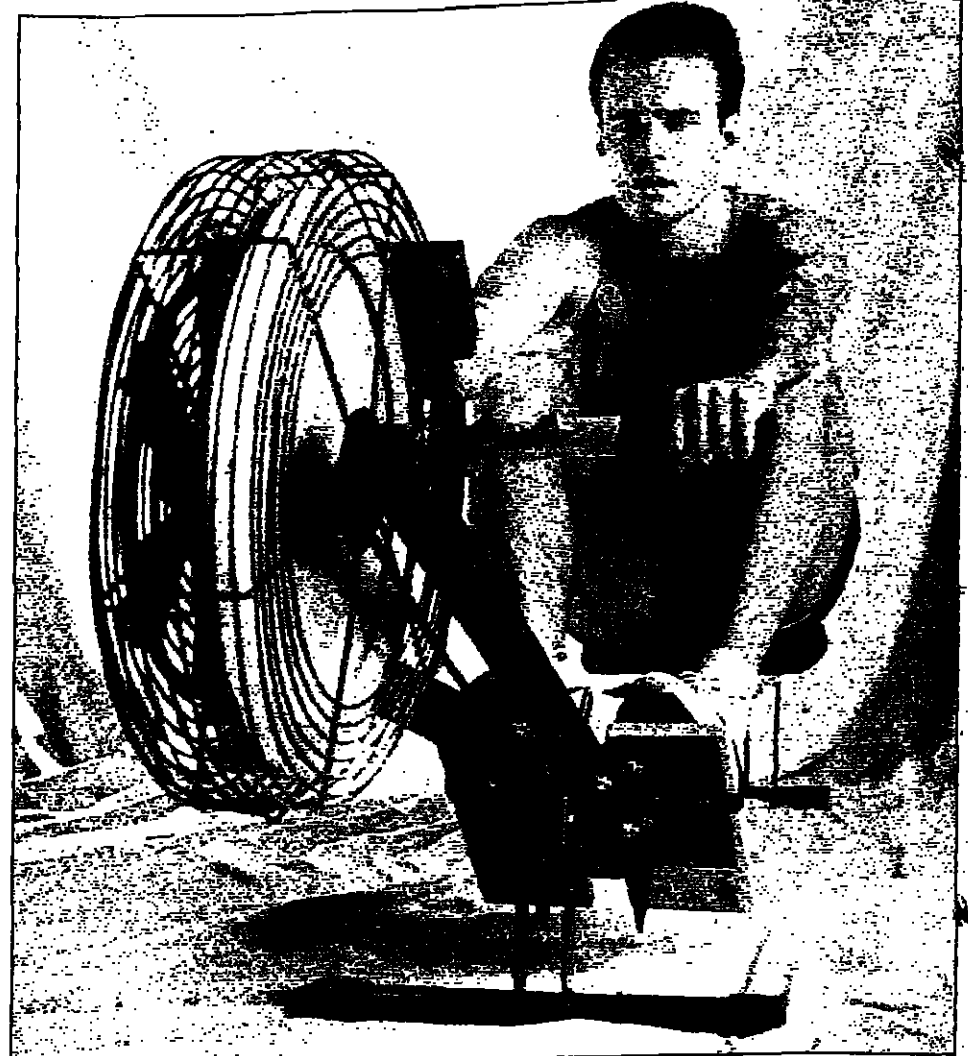
exhortations to a largely sedentary British population to become more active and to adopt healthier lifestyles."

Government has another role in this business, through the Physical Activity Project within the Health Education Authority. It set up a task force of academics and other experts a year ago and their initial findings and recommendations will be issued soon in a consultative document. Nick Cavill, the project manager, expects that it will formulate a strategy to improve the nation's general level of health, and will refocus attention on the importance of regular, but not-intensive, exercise such as using stairs instead of lifts, cycling and brisk walks as the minimum needed to keep fit.

Why should companies be prepared to spend large amounts, sometimes in the millions, on fitness?

The answer is simply that they believe it helps to improve the output of their employees in two ways. The first, and most measurable, is that it cuts days lost due to sickness. Overall, it is estimated that people taking sick leave costs British industry £13 billion a year. In America, Canada Life Assurance estimates that its health and fitness programme cut its illness-related absenteeism by 42 per cent.

The second view is that people who are bodily fit have more energy, make better decisions, and work harder and longer than the couch potatoes in their organisations. Evidence from the workplace to back this assertion is hard to find, because it is difficult to measure. But a



Fit people have much more energy and work harder and longer than couch potatoes

research programme by America's National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa), shows that while an average worker's efficiency can plummet by 50 per cent in the final two hours of a day, people who work out within a regular programme show no such drop off. It also says that the latter group also scores

higher in tests to measure decision-making capabilities.

The belief that fitness pays persuades firms to spend money or time, or both, on the physical well-being of their key workers.

The incentive is not directly financial. Whereas in America, evidence of regular fitness workouts will convince insur-

ance firms to cut premiums on life cover, the insurance industry in Britain has not yet taken steps in this direction.

Bob Paton, director of the FIA, says that his organisation is working to convince insurance companies that their risk is sufficiently reduced by fitness training to justify reductions in premiums.

Whoever is in power, between now and 2010 the NHS will be increasingly strapped for cash

**P**eter Jacobs, Bupa's chief executive, claims not to be losing sleep over the prospect of Labour winning the next election. He insists that the private sector will grow whichever government is in power.

Not surprisingly, it is a view that Margaret Beckett, Labour's Shadow Health Secretary, cannot share. Although Labour's health policy is still in the melting pot, she said certain policies such as abolishing the tax relief given on the private health insurance premiums paid by retired people were already firmly established. Other "firm" policies included scrapping such key NHS reforms as fundholding, trust status and the internal market. Labour would also order an investigation to find out whether the NHS was subsidising private medicine.

Mrs Beckett said the number of private operations carried out each year in NHS hospitals had shot up to nearly 100,000 and the number of private outpatient appointments had topped 142,000. "Under the Conservatives,



Change: Margaret Beckett

the pursuit of privatisation within the NHS is undermining a great public service and replacing an expectation of fair treatment with the reality of queue jumping. NHS patients are entitled to, and should receive, the priority and quality treatment they deserve.

Mrs Beckett said: "What has happened to the health service is an absolute tragedy. I don't think people could believe in their heart of hearts that any government would privatise the health service, but that, in effect, is what has happened."

Why, in the face of this view are Mr Jacobs and Peter Cavers, Norwich Union's Healthcare managing director, so relaxed? Mr Jacobs's argument is that the private sector is bound to grow whatever the government, because the NHS will never have enough money to cope with the public's expectations of health care and high-technology medicine and the increasingly ageing population.

"Whatever government is in power between now and 2010, the more strapped for cash the NHS is going to get. The more, therefore, they will depend on other forms of funding," he said.

New money-raising schemes — such as paying to see a GP — would also almost certainly be introduced for

## What will happen if Labour is elected?

people who could afford to pay more towards their health costs on top of what they already pay in taxes.

Mr Cavers agreed that no government would be able to pay the total cost of healthcare and that patients would have

to dip into their own pockets. He urged the Tories to boost the private sector by changing the rules so that NHS family doctors have the same freedom to treat patients privately as hospital consultants.

Mr Jacobs said the danger

at the moment was that Tory and Labour health policies looked so similar. "I don't think Labour would do anything irresponsible like trying to reverse the current reforms. They may do something about GP fundholding, but I don't

think they will remove it. They will probably stop (further) development of pay beds in the NHS but they won't want to lose the income that is generated by them."

As for the row over the amount of time spent by NHS consultants treating private patients, Mr Jacobs said: "We do not encourage, and we do not wish consultants to break the terms of their contract with the NHS."

RICHARD WOODMAN

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Richard Woodman reports on options available to those looking at care in the long term

# Plan for the good old days

**S**ans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste and now sans money? That is the worrying prospect facing thousands of people as local councils run out of funds for nursing homes.

Under the 1990 NHS and Community Care Act, implemented in 1993, local authorities became the main budget-holders for state-funded long-term care. Although the new system is designed to ease the burden on public money, several authorities have complained that they are running out of funds. Surrey County Council even sent a begging letter to 135 private homes earlier this month asking them to take elderly and disabled people without payment until the council's coffers are replenished in April.

The Surrey case is disturbing enough, but the real nightmare will come when the postwar baby-boomers become old and frail. The number of people over 85 is set to rise from 897,000 in 1991 to 1,202,000 in 2001, and 3,105,000 in 2051. More than 20 per cent will have Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. Many will be living alone without a partner to look after them.

To keep pace, the number of beds in homes and hospitals has to increase from 546,000 to 623,000 by 2000, and double to 1,290,000 by 2051. Yet the NHS is actually closing long-stay beds — pushing even more of the burden on to local councils and the private sector.

In financial terms, the projections suggest that the proportion of the nation's wealth spent on long-term care of elderly people must rise from 1.5 per cent to 3.5 per cent over the next 60 years just to maintain present standards. "It is fairly obvious that the



The best of care: physiotherapy at the Prestbury Beaumont Nursing Care Centre

Government is not going to be able to cope," says Anthea Burdess, managing director of the Woking-based Country House nursing homes group which looks after 1,200 people in 30 centres.

"The demographic trends show such enormous growth in the over-85s, it is a little risky to expect the State to look after you. Even if you are looked after by the State, the choice will be limited and the standards of care are necessarily going to be basic."

The need to plan before you or your ageing parents need

help is underlined by Liz Harris, head of marketing at Westminster Health Care, which cares for 4,500 people in 69 homes. "Social services departments are obliged to make sure that older people whose funds have run out are taken care of. Having said that, we would advise anyone in middle age to start thinking now," she says.

You can choose to live in any nursing or residential home — but it is not cheap. Nursing home fees average £331 a week, which is beyond the means of most people. If you

need help to pay, you should ask your local social services to assess your needs.

The council is responsible for paying the fees, but will collect from you as much as you can afford to pay. In practice, that means you will be expected to pay the full fee until your capital — including savings and your house if your partner no longer lives there — is reduced to £8,000. If the home costs more than the sum the council would normally pay for someone with your needs, you will have to pay the balance. Critics say the system

not only entails the indignity of means-testing, it penalises the thrifty and rewards people who have never bothered to save.

Penny O'Nions, health investment adviser at De Havilland Financial Management, north London, says people should consider the extra protection offered by insurance schemes launched in 1991, even though the policies are relatively expensive and commissions range from nine to 33 per cent.

**T**here are two main types of scheme: pre-funded plans which you pay for in advance not knowing whether you will need to claim; and annuity plans which are paid out of capital if you need immediate care.

"Realistic cover costs about £50 a month for a healthy 60 to 65-year-old or you can put in a lump sum ranging from £3,000 to as much as £150,000," Dr O'Nions says. "It is worthwhile being covered because the money you get from a pension is very unlikely to be sufficient to cover nursing home fees. If you invest in gilts, you can easily get the timing wrong, and with unit trusts there is the risk of low growth. So a small element of insurance is going to be essential."

She warns people to watch out for "financial sharks" who, having been banned from selling personal pensions, were now trying to exploit the fears of old and vulnerable people.

These salesmen use frightening tactics to sell these high commission products. They don't even have to have any knowledge. A campaign is badly needed to ensure this area is properly regulated."

insurance contributions. The answer is that private medicine is an important alternative to the NHS, valued by some as a business perk and by others as a means of ensuring that they can be treated for chronic conditions or have cosmetic surgery at their convenience rather than relying on the hard-pressed state sector.

How to choose the best option is difficult. The oldest of the private medical firms is Bupa (which stood for the British United Provident Association, from which it grew when it amalgamated 27 provident associations in 1947).

It not only provides insurance, but also health screening and its own hospitals. It is the biggest, the current market leader with nearly 3 million members, 45 per cent of the market, and is, on balance, among the most expensive. About 64 per cent of its customers are employees of corporations which pay the bills. You can rely on Bupa, but there many cheaper and more flexible options.

For example, leader of the new boys is Norwich Union Healthcare, which began medical insurance in 1990. In the past 4½ years it has attracted about 530,000 customers, many of whom have left the bigger or older firms. Its customers are primarily individuals or employees of small firms. David Cavers, its managing director, says it works in the way medicine is practised today, offering patients several options: to be treated by GPs, trust hospitals in either lower cost NHS beds or their private units, or in independent hospitals.

**H**e also says that its policies have taken more account of the increase in "day-case surgery" that advances in medicine are making possible. Mr Cavers says that Norwich Union's youth gives it an innovative edge. "Companies like Bupa, PPP (Private Patients Plan) and WPA (Western Provident Association) have their feet in a previous decade. Even with our low cost scheme, we pick up all the inpatient and daycase costs (although outpatient charges are down to the customer), we operate by postcode rather than hospital band system, and we don't put limits on the patient's cover."

Bupa's response to Mr Cavers's comments is that it keeps its services up to date according to what its members want (it introduced dental, travel and long-term disability cover and upgraded all its products last September).

The message for the putative private patient is that the range, scale and costs of medical treatment vary so much and are changing so fast that it would be unwise to give firm advice on the best option. There are agencies that act as independent intermediaries — one is Health Care Matters in Chislehurst — but, as with any other form of financial transaction, customers must do their own research and make up their own minds.

JOHN STANSELL

## How to make a choice

With so many medical insurance schemes to choose from, there is a lot of homework to be done

million people on waiting lists for surgery.

It is hardly surprising then that such statistics, coupled with the Government's aim of encouraging people to reduce their dependence on the State, have led to a big increase in the number of insurers offer-

ing private medical cover. To date, about 11 per cent of the population are members of medical insurance schemes.

Laing and Buisson, independent analysts, say this figure will rise to more than 15 per cent by the end of the century. In addition, recent changes in

legislation have also inspired finance companies to offer loans to pay for treatments.

But do private health insurance or loans fill the gap for those who can afford to pay for them? It must be remembered that premiums or repayments are in addition to national

Despite the Government's protestations that it has poured money into the National Health Service since it came to power in 1979, health professionals say the situation has never been worse.

The British Medical Association (BMA) believes the NHS is facing the worst crisis in 30 years. The College of Health suggests that the shortage of hospital beds in London is one of the worst in Europe — one to every 336 people who live in the capital, while in the UK in general it is one to 147. It also calculates that there are 1

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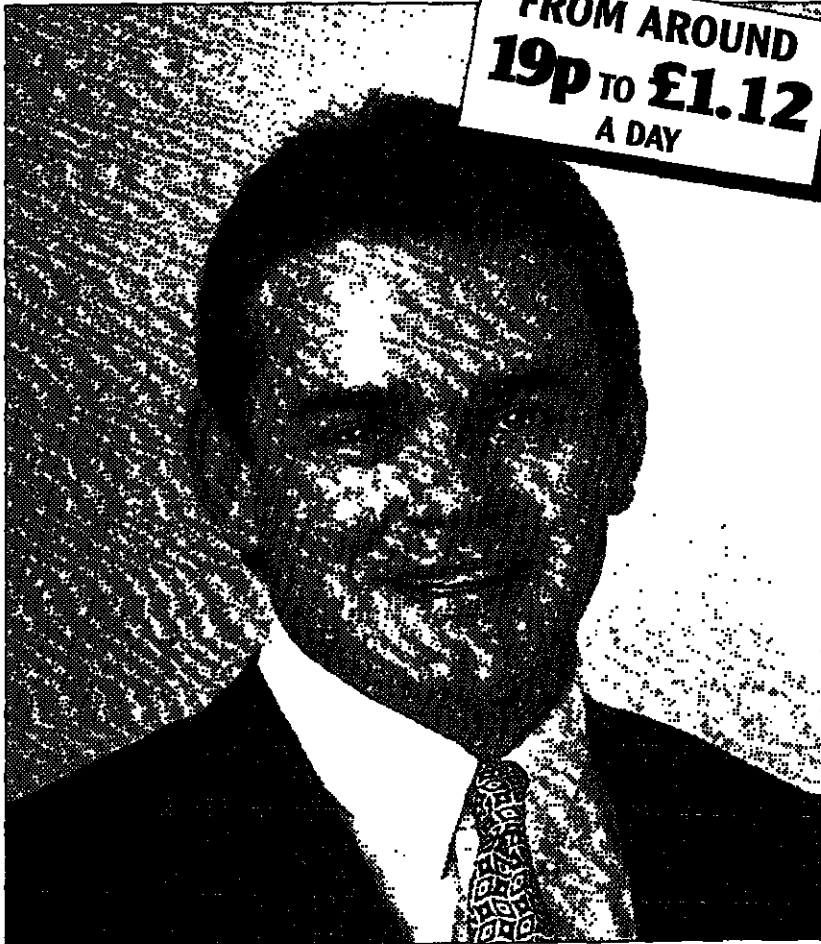
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**THEATRE page 38**  
A once-inventive staging  
loses its way as Love's  
Labour's Lost returns to  
London with a new cast

# ARTS

**OPERA page 39**  
The murder of a gay  
politician is the  
starting-point for a  
controversial new opera



**CINEMA:** Tales of two British film directors, joined by talent but separated by the North Atlantic – and oceans of money

## Beggar for the idle millions

A critical hit with his first film did not guarantee finance for the second, Gary Sinyor tells Alexandra Frean

Three years after *Leon the Pig Farmer* walked off with prizes at the Venice and Edinburgh film festivals, Gary Sinyor, who wrote, co-produced and co-directed the low-budget production has still to make a penny from it.

But Sinyor remains defiant. His second film, *Solitaire for 2*, goes on national release next week and plans for his third and fourth productions are already well advanced.

Made on a budget of £1.5 million (ten times the budget for *Leon the Pig Farmer*), *Solitaire for 2* is a comic love story about a man who is an expert in body language and a woman with extra-sensory perception. He, a silver-tongued control freak with a gift for seduction, is terrified of

tale to budding film-makers. When it was released in 1992 the film was hailed as a triumph of optimism over common financial sense. The production team raised £150,000 to cover the bare necessities of food, transport and film stock through selling shares to private investors, who put in as little as £1,000 each through a Business Expansion Scheme. The crew and actors took their payments on a deferred basis, meaning they would not get a penny until the film went into profit.

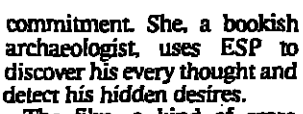
Despite rave reviews, the film was not a financial success. The investors and non-deferred creditors have only just been paid back and the £350,000 owed to cast and crew is still outstanding.

Like so many British films before it, *Leon the Pig Farmer* was a victim of the British cinema distribution system, a system dominated by a handful of (mostly American-owned) major players with close and virtually exclusive links to both the main cinema chains and to the Hollywood studios. Low-budget independent producers with invisible publicity budgets often find it impossible to break into this cosy arrangement and get their work into anything other than a handful of small arthouse British cinemas.

Sinyor was on the point of abandoning his film career when he was rescued by two Manchester businessmen, who agreed to underwrite the full £1.5 million.

He hopes, however, not to have to face the same funding struggle again, now that he has been taken under the protective wing of the visual entertainment and media company Chrysalis.

Sinyor is now part of a stable of young talent Chrysalis has signed up over the past year or so in return for a slice of the profit on anything they make. Although not a Chrysalis employee in the conventional sense, Sinyor now receives a "salary" from the company as well as office space and administrative back-up. "They have no editorial input to the projects I develop, but they get a percentage of each film I make and get their development money back in the budget," he says.



Sinyor finally out of the woods and into the cinemas

commitment. She, a bookish archaeologist, uses ESP to discover his every thought and detect his hidden desires.

The film, a kind of cross between a screwball 1930s comedy and a 1990s trip into heightened reality, stars Mark Frankel (from *Leon the Pig Farmer*) and Amanda Kays.

"It is all about the games people play in relationships, only he cannot really play any games because she can see straight through him," Sinyor says. "Having a character who can read minds is a way of letting the audience explore their own anxieties."

Something of a control freak himself, Sinyor, 32, was actively involved in raising the budget for *Solitaire for 2*, as well as writing and directing it. Despite the enormous critical success of *Leon the Pig Farmer*, finding the cash was not easy. Having initially promised to bankroll the production, the distributor Miramax pulled out a year ago, leaving Sinyor to scrape around for cash in much the same way as he had to make *Leon the Pig Farmer*.

Sinyor's experience with his pig film serves as a cautionary

## Not much of a cereal killer

Geoff Brown finds little to die for in *The Road to Wellville*. Alan Parker's loud-mouthed film about John Harvey Kellogg, inventor of the cornflake



Matthew Broderick attempts to find health and happiness at the hands of nurse Traci Lind in *The Road to Wellville*

The V word, violence, is back again: does it ever go away? Sam Peckinpah's *Straw Dogs* rears its bloody head at the National Film Theatre, where it will play in a new print to audiences scarcely born when critics and guardians of the nation's morality hurled their abuse on the film's first release in 1971.

For his part, Alan Parker, a skilled, brash director, perpetrates his own brand of violence, and an exuberant American comic novel such as T. Coraghessan Boyle's *The Road to Wellville* is not the property to prompt any change to gender methods. So prepare for the full onslaught in this exhausting, repetitive turn-of-the-century romp through the fictional fortunes of the real-life Battle Creek Sanitarium: a Michigan retreat for the rich, famous and idle, run with a whim of iron by John Harvey Kellogg, inventor of cornflakes and peanut butter, and champion of "biological living".

It is easy to spot Dr Kellogg. He is Anthony Hopkins, decorated with Bugs Bunny teeth, a little goatee, and a brusque, machinegun voice. "We are merely lifeguards on the shores of the alimentary canal," he barks. Around him cluster likeable players such as Bridget Fonda and Matthew Broderick, and dislikeable players such as Dana Carvey. You will encounter enough medical contraptions to stock ten museums, and every kind of period bustle. On top of everything, there are farts galore, vomiting, spitting, flung dung, jokes about enemas, erections and stools.

The result is more sophisticated than a *Carry On*, although as a satire on the century's obsession with sex, health and staying off death, the points are blunted by the film's undue length and hammer-blow style. The three stories woven into Parker's script pull our attention too many ways. Should we focus on Hopkins's relations with his renegade adopted son (Carvey)? Or on the strained marriage of Fonda and Broderick, two new residents at the "San"? Or maybe we should feel for John Cusack, a would-be breakfast food entrepreneur who casts his lot with an utter rogue and produces a cereal even pigs refuse?

If Parker had not forced his players to shout, pull faces and parade in make-up that belongs on the vaudeville stage, the film would be more digestible. Hopkins himself suffers more than most. Only one tiny flashback scene with his wife reveals him as a human being: for the rest he is a strutting caricature, and he gives the film a cold heart. Those who emerge best adopt the soft-sofity method: Broderick as the reluctant patient increasingly concerned by Kellogg's

regime; or John Neville as the laconic, witty English gent who delights in giving his private parts an electric jolt.

In *Leon*, meanwhile, bullets are routinely emptied into heads, stomachs, arms, legs, ceilings and walls. Gary Oldman, as Stansfield, the world's most corrupt drug enforcement officer, pops pills with operatic gestures, and bubbles over with evil. "I like these calm moments before the storm: it's like Beethoven!" he says in a voice stretched thin with manic glee. Nothing in the Pastoral Symphony, however, can match the destruction that follows.

But *Leon* is not quite the usual bloodbath. The director is Luc Besson, sleek master of *La Femme Nikita* and *Subway*; and he fills the screen with dynamic compositions. The story's setting is New

York, the language English, although the film remains French in its financing and technical staff, and Besson views the concrete canyons with a foreigner's eyes.

Besson also injects some European heart. This is *Leon*'s film, not Stansfield's; and this near-illiterate, indestructible hitman begins with at least two soft spots. Leon likes to watch Gene Kelly dance, and he loves his potted plant. Soon his affections are called upon by Mathilde, a 12-year-old whose family is wiped out in one of Stansfield's splurges. Taking shelter in Leon's apartment, she declares she wants to learn his trade, and soon considers herself his lover. Inevitably, Mathilde will become Leon's undoing, although she helps him to find some redemption on route.

Jean Reno, a Besson regular, is riveting as the zombie-like Leon, a character inspired by his role of Victor, cleaner-up of other people's messes in *La Femme Nikita*. Natalie Portman's precocious child has a distinctive, eerie presence. Oldman quickly turns tedious, but the images around him throb with life: you always know you are watching a film, not an illustrated script. The drawback, as usual with Besson, is that behind the images lies a vacuum. Puppet characters and a little story have been pumped up to look big. Even so, it is a pleasure to find a thriller that takes time to savour atmosphere, and treats some characters with respect.

at least until the bullets fly. And *Leon* has one advantage over *La Femme Nikita* and its tiresome American copy, *The Assassin*. Being shot in English the first time round, there is no need for a remake.

*Straw Dogs*, Peckinpah's notorious account of violence erupting in a West Country farmhouse, belongs to a different age. Characters talk about

"30 bob". Colin Welland plays a vicar. More to the point, the gunshots and sexual assaults hurt and disturb in a way few films can manage now. *Leon* offers designer violence, neatly patterned, almost clean. Twenty years ago, audiences and film-makers took their bloodshed much more seriously. When Susan George is violated, or when the beast

within Dustin Hoffman rises to savage the rabble at the gates, our own feelings of security come under direct attack.

*Straw Dogs* retains a ferocious bite, although the original shrieks about gratuitous violence appear mostly misplaced. Peckinpah throws in a spattering of ugly close-ups clearly designed to shock, but almost half the film is spent laying the groundwork for the final explosion. The yokels mock and leer. Hoffman, George's mathematician husband, seems a polo-necked drip, but inside the fires are burning: he bickers constantly with his wife, and even hurls grapefruit at the cat. When one of the locals, pondering on America's riots and murders, asks if he saw anyone get knifed, Hoffman responds: "Just between commercials." Through the experiences of George and Hoffman, Peckinpah takes violence out of its television compartment, and lodges it inside our hearts and minds. That is why the film remains disturbing, depressing, and important.

Darnell Martin's *I Like It Like That* has been touted as the first feature directed by a black American woman to be bankrolled by a Hollywood major. Not that Columbia put its modest \$5 million into something controversial. Strip away the rough Bronx street talk and the funky music, and you get a cheerful family drama with enough conventional plotting to fill a television sitcom.

Martin's chief characters are a feisty, volatile Latino couple, scarcely out of childhood themselves, with three kids to support. When the hardworking father (John Sedá) is jailed for looting, the mother (Lauren Vélez) becomes the breadwinner and, by a fluke, lands a job with a record executive.

The film jangles with life once Martin focuses on neighbourhood squabbles ("I don't have to stop screaming, I'm an adult!" Vélez yells). But when Griffin Dunne's record exec and his red Lamborghini side up, so do the clichés. Martin, past camera assistant to Spike Lee, handles herself well for a debut director; but no one should imagine she has created something raw and dangerous.

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**Leon**  
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**Straw Dogs**  
National Film Theatre  
18, 118 mins  
Peckinpah's film still bites

**I Like It Like That**  
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AT CINEMAS NATIONWIDE FROM TOMORROW







# Making of a gay martyr

OPERA: Rodney Milnes on a provocative new work about the life and murder of a San Francisco politician

It is perhaps more than a coincidence that the last three new operas I have heard should have been so openly challenging to the status quo — Terrence's *Enoch*, Musgrave's *Simon Bolivar*, and now Stewart Wallace's *Harvey Milk*. The last-named, a co-commission from Houston Grand Opera and the San Francisco and New York City Operas, was premiered in Houston to the background of a real crisis. Whereas public funding for the arts has been steadily eroded in the UK, in America the new Congress is about to vote on abolishing altogether the National Endowment for the Arts. Perhaps the powers that be have finally twigged that art is dangerous.

*Harvey Milk* is blatantly, provocatively confrontational, and there have been walkouts from performances to prove it. It tells of the life and murder of the first avowed homosexual to be elected to public office in America, as city supervisor (roughly councillor) in San Francisco in 1977. His homosexuality was in a sense incidental; it was his attracting the votes of other minorities — pensioners, trades unionists, Asian Americans — that made him so challenging a figure. And while his sexuality may have triggered the murderer's finger, it was probably his wide constituency that prompted the shockingly lenient sentence of five years for his murderer.

The opera, deeply well-intentioned and performed with heartfelt fervour, is not without problems. Over half is taken up with describing how Harvey Milk became Harvey Milk, tracing his journey from closeted Wall Street stockbroker to gay hippie in the Castro district of San Francisco to well-groomed city supervisor. Fine, but there is much em-

## Harvey Milk Houston

phasis on gay stereotypes (drag queens, cruisers and S/M frisks are only a minority of a minority), and the close identification of homosexuals with victims of the Holocaust (Milk was Jewish) can provoke a slightly queasy reaction.

It is when Milk is elected to office in the finale of the second of three acts that the action gets really interesting, as interesting as his relationship with his fellow supervisor and eventual killer, Dan White. The singer of White also appears as various homophobic characters earlier in the action, and throughout gives voice to attitudes consonant with those of the silent majority — and presumably with those who walked out. I can't help feeling that less narrative and more emphasis on political and personal confrontation could have yielded more genuinely operatic meat.

But Michael Korie's libretto is well constructed and snappily written, with some really funny lines. The trouble is, Wallace's music seems designed for a completely different text. His word-setting is laboured and angular — he is a master of mis-stress — and his generally slow pacing is not the best vehicle for sharp one-liners. His musical language is eclectic and over-reliant on pastiche: bargain-basement Bernstein for the production numbers; snippets of Deliusian tortuousness; near-Massenet soupiness for Milk's love duet with his partner; minimalist doodling when all else fails. His own voice, when it is heard, is strangely anonymous, and his grasp of dramatic pace worryingly unsure.

What impact the evening has derives largely from Christopher Alden's powerful production — the murder itself, played twice, is heart-stopping each time — and if too much of it is in slow motion, well, so is the music. Robert Orth gives a virtuoso performance in the title role, and Raymond Verry's Dan White is so accomplished that you wish he had more to do.

There is powerful support from James Maddalena, Gidon Saks and Jill Grove in a variety of smaller roles. Chorus and orchestra under Ward Holmquist are absolutely first-rate. HGO has certainly done the piece proud: would that the opposite were true.



Ill-fated campaigner: Robert Orth delivers a virtuoso performance in the title role of Stewart Wallace's new opera *Harvey Milk*, premiered by Houston Grand Opera

## LONDON CONCERTS

### Embarked on a flight of fancy

MUCH depended on the Russian element, both performers and performances, for the impact of two concerts on consecutive nights at the Festival Hall: Alexander Lazarev as guest conductor with the Philharmonia; the Royal Philharmonic under its principal conductor, Yuri Temirkanov. Lazarev was superficially the more dynamic, Temirkanov the more probing in revealing the RPO at a world-class standard as it leaves for America next weekend on the first leg of a world tour.

Temirkanov yielded precedence at the start, however, to Gareth Wood, one of the orchestra's double-basses, who conducted his own *Fantasia: Flying High* for full orchestra to celebrate the association of Independent Insurance as the orchestra's new principal sponsor. We are evidently in the era of brand-music.

For commanding virtuosity, I have heard little lately to equal Eliso Virsaladze in Prokofiev's *C major Piano Concerto* (No 3). The Georgian-born pianist encompassed the music's changing moods and shifting directions with a sustained power and brilliance bursting with life and colour. Nor was she lacking in poetry for the less extrovert passages, while the orchestral playing was as focused as a laser.

It brought a sense of newly-minted detail to the Four Sea Interludes from Britten's *Peter*

*Grimes*, giving full pictorial value to their graphic illustration, then turning inwards to seek the tragic spirit beneath the clamour of Shostakovich's *Fifth Symphony*. Temirkanov dug deeply into its fabric, stressing the Mahler element in the scherzo movement, and if he could not avoid the bombast that the composer found to be the cost of reaching a happy ending, the journey towards it was grandly made.

On the previous night, Lazarev gave no quarter to the Philharmonia. The volatile Latvian signalled his intentions in a vigorous account of Rossini's overture to *L'italiana in Algeri*, with little chance of instrumental delicacy, and compounded his efforts in a bold, brassy and fiercely driven performance of Tchaikovsky's *Fourth Symphony*. Some woodwind and horn players distinguished themselves, but the strings sounded as if they had forgotten the meaning of *cantabile* and the overall effect was a sense of musical hysteria.

In between, the soloist this time was Gidon Kremer, who picked on Paganini's *Violin Concerto No. 4* and delivered it with commendable restraint for this most unpredictable of violinists. His playing was buoyant and ingenious, the cadenza all over the place, but in a most disciplined way.

NOEL GOODWIN

### Back to the basics

AN ARTS award aimed at encouraging a return to "fundamental artistic skills such as drawing, composition, colour and control of the medium" is calling for entries from professional British artists up to the age of 35. The winner of the NatWest 90s Prize for Art, to be announced on March 17, will receive £5,000. Closing date for entries is February 19; details on 0171-498 5629 or 0171-734 4455.

● RICHARD Rodney Bennett has been named as the composer whose new work will be premiered by 17 British orchestras in the coming year. He has been commissioned to write a work as part of the BT Celebration Series devised by the Association of British Orchestras. Most of the ABO's member orchestras will then perform the new work during the next season. The series was inaugurated last year when James MacMillan wrote an overture that was performed by 14 different orchestras.

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## Shift in style, if not in substance

I must first of all thank the reader who commented on the absence of this column last week and reassure her that I had not in fact taken "industrial action in support of Gerry Anderson".

But having been obliged under reader pressure to write about the life and death of Anderson Country, I shall take this first opportunity to write about its replacement, *The Afternoon Shift*, after which I shall ignore the programme until listeners rise up in their next, inevitable, revolt. Quite why so much fuss should be created over a programme that goes out at 3pm, an indecent hour for any kind of broadcasting, is beyond me. But this week's figures from Rajar, the radio audience researchers, show that 285,000 people were listening to *Anderson Country* even unto its death throes.

This is a very decent figure for that time of day, even allowing for the high percentage who tuned in only because they needed a cure for low blood pressure.

So is *The Afternoon Shift* any better? Not as a title it isn't. Surely in the decent, middle-class suburbs of Radio 4 a shift, if it is anything at all,

RADIO: Gerry Anderson infuriated many Radio 4 listeners. But will his replacements fare any better?



Different voices: Gerry Anderson (left) and Laurie Taylor



is something ladies used to wear, nor something one works. Dear oh dear: I suppose this is all part of the egalitarian new BBC (though I don't notice anything egalitarian about the salaries).

So the title is a dud. The programme is not quite a dud. I understand from a Radio 4

source who is more egalitarian than most that the mailbag so far has been of a kind that electricians call positive/negative.

Most correspondents have praised *The Afternoon Shift* by saying that it is not *Anderson Country*: praised with faint damnation. These letters

apparently hardly use the dread word "trivia" at all, even though the actual content has hardly changed.

The perception of change lies with the alternating presenters, Laurie Taylor and Daire Brehan. I have heard the word "supercilious" used in regard to Taylor, and if that catches on he could yet emulate Anderson by filling up a whole edition of *Feedback*.

The word in circulation about Brehan is "warm". She undoubtedly has a voice splendidly tuned for radio. So clearly *The Afternoon Shift* has presenters better suited to the type of programme Anderson was doing, which proves my point that Anderson was handed the wrong format for his talents.

But *The Afternoon Shift* is no more substantial in terms of content than was *Anderson Country*, which suggests that the BBC has done quite a clever thing. It has deflected the criticism that a single presenter always attracts by bringing in two, thus leaving the listeners without a specific focus for their vitriol. Still, it's early days yet.

PETER BARNARD

### STUDENT THEATRE: Old Testament manoeuvres in the dark at the Oxford Playhouse

PERHAPS it was an act of God. *Yonadab*, Peter Shaffer's Old Testament drama of the rape of Tamar, retribution and the ruin of a royal family (not to everyone's liking ten years ago), was struck down after only thirty minutes on the opening night of the Oxford University Drama Society.

## No power, no glory

en's staging of Shaffer's "completely revised" script. Scarcely had Tamar started to dance, twisting her wrists alluringly and arousing more than brotherly love in Amnon,

than the House Of David was plunged into darkness. We were never to see how deviously Yonadab, the snubbed daughter of pre-Christian Jerusalem, would manipulate David's son into committing incest. Nor how Amnon would lure Tamar to his bedside under false pretences.

It may have been divine vengeance for misleading press releases. I was enticed to the Playhouse with promises of a "brand new text". Shaffer, recently Cameron Mackintosh Professor of Contemporary Theatre at Oxford University, has revised the script with OUDS. But, as Shaffer courteously confirmed when accosted by me in the street, this is essentially the heavily redrafted *Yonadab* as published in 1989, with some ongoing adjustments.

Still, even prematurely ter-

minated, this premiere of Shaffer's reworking reveals both glaring problems and luminous strengths. The wordless white-robed Helpers spell trouble, with laboured mimes of bound prisoners and much en-masse banging of staves. Old Testament extras spoke in Morse. The dialogue's mixture of the archaic and contemporary can founder. King David's manner isn't so much 1000 BC as 100 per cent BBC.

However, *Yonadab* is a play of powerful twists and bold ideas: intertwining manipulators and puppets, cynicism and fanaticism, the devastation of rape and the fearfulness of justice.

Third-year undergraduate Elliot Levey deserves a round of applause. His dark-bearded Yonadab, nasty, funny, nervously spiky and coolly ironic, is superb. A student Shier with splash and precision.

KATE BASSETT

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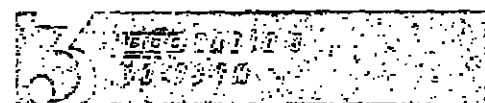
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Ian McIntyre compares two lives of Lenin which replace the damaged icon of Soviet mythology

# Behind the iron mask of a Bolshevik

Historians in what used to be the Soviet Union find themselves in the position of children let loose on alternate days in the maze at Hampton Court and in a lollipop factory. The re-examination of the Soviet past began under Gorbachev. The process, like all things Russian, has been intermittent, but the steel doors that guarded so many secrets swing wider by the day. Nobody has gathered up a bigger fistful of lollipops than Dmitri Volkogonov. But then he was the man chosen to supervise the declassification of the state and party archives after the abortive coup of 1991. Volkogonov joined the Red Army in 1945. A graduate of the Lenin Military Academy, he rose to the rank of Colonel-General in the army's propaganda department and was subsequently Director of the Institute of Military History. In 1988 he published a biography of Stalin, an event greeted by his unbookish fellow-officers with the sort of enthusiasm evinced last year by the Blues and Royals for Major James Hewitt.

**LENIN**  
Life and Legacy  
By Dmitri Volkogonov  
HarperCollins, £25

**LENIN**  
A Political Life  
Volume 3: The Iron Ring  
By Robert Service  
Macmillan, £45

Nothing in Lenin's earlier life had fitted him for the demanding routines of government — his professional experience was limited to a brief stint as a lawyer's assistant in Samara. He plunged into the business of state administration with enthusiasm, but found it difficult to distinguish between what was important and what might reasonably be left to subordinates. Volkogonov instances the intriguing sanitary *ukaz* he drew up for inhabitants of the Kremlin: "All those arriving (by train) shall before entering their accommodation take a bath and hand their dirty clothes to the disinfectant (at the bath)."

This English edition of his study of Lenin has been excellently translated by Harold Shukman. He has also tightened the text considerably; his discreet preface suggests that in doing so he has spared us some none too gripping philosophical digressions.

The portrait that emerges is very different from the prim icon so long familiar from Soviet hagiography. The Blessed Volodya of Simbirsk gives way to the apostle of class warfare and state terror. He also seems to have had a line in coarse language that would not have disgraced Lyndon Johnson. "Teach these arseholes some responsibility about producing complete and accurate figures," he instructed Stalin and Kamenev in 1922, displeased with the performance of some financial experts they had taken on.

Now Volkogonov has turned his attention to the first person of the Soviet Trinity. Leninism, he confesses, was "the last bastion to fall in my mind." Gradually, as he delved deeper into the Soviet archives and was able to see something of what Harvard and the Hoover Institution at Stanford had to offer, he reached the conclusion that the real Lenin was a total stranger: "He had always stood before us in the death-mask of the earthly god he had never been." Gradually, he writes, "the creator and prophet was edged out by the Russian Jacobin."

As a lapsed *apparatchik* Volkogonov obviously writes with insight and authority. However, a grounding in Soviet dogmatics is not an ideal apprenticeship for the writing of either history or biography. An operation for ideological glaucoma does not automatically tone up the patient's political or historical judgment. It must also be borne in mind that as an adviser to President Yeltsin, Volkogonov's preoccupations are likely to be political as well as academic.

Robert Service has been at work on his biographical trilogy since 1978, and in this final volume carries the story forward from the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk to Lenin's death in



A broken man: Lenin in 1923 after his stroke, nursed by his sister, from *The Russian Century* (Chatto & Windus)

1924. It is a much more solid piece of historical writing than Volkogonov's. "I have held pretty close to the trilogy's perspective as disclosed in the first volume," he writes in his introduction. That he has been able to do so while assimilating the enormous mass of new material that has showered down on his head in recent years testifies to the quality of his scholarship, particularly as it was only after August 1991 that he was authorised to consult the collections in the central party archive.

Volkogonov discerns no ideological discontinuity between Lenin and Stalin and no great difference of method. Service broadly agrees with that, but does not feel compelled to swing such a large sledgehammer. He quotes the fawning Mayakovsky: "Lenin lived, Lenin lives, Lenin will live!" — and allows the exceptional stature of the man: "He had intellectual, organisational and political talents as well as deficiencies, and he had them on a grand scale." He is also prepared to enter on

the credit side the sincerity of his vision of a future without exploitation and oppression and the charm of an appealing temperament. "Lenin was dignified and thoughtful," he writes, "a decent man in his personal relations."

Service declares that it is impossible to write about Lenin with detachment. "I have done him as much justice as he deserves," he asserts, "and it is more than his opponents received from him." He seems to me to have reached a more balanced judgment than

Volkogonov and to have had greater success in placing his subject in a coherent political and economic context.

After 17 years of what he describes as psychological cohabitation, Service can clear his bookshelves of the fifth edition of Lenin's collected works with an easy mind — all 55 volumes of it — and back to the reflection that he got off lightly. The sixth edition, brought to a halt by the events of August 1991, looked like running to 70 volumes at the very least.

## How dear food dished the Tories

Andrew Roberts

**THE CRISIS OF CONSERVATISM**  
The politics, economics and ideology of the British Conservative Party, 1880-1914  
By E.H.H. Green  
Routledge, £30

This is the tale of a nice but ineffective Tory Prime Minister who tried to step into the shoes of a giant predecessor who had dominated British politics over three premierships. He soon found his party split over an economic issue which also had profound implications for Britain's future global orientation. Was Britain to stay with free trade, or try to be at the heart of a monolithic trading bloc with protectionist tendencies? A federal entity which several prospective members did not want to see taking a political, as opposed to purely commercial character.

The hapless Prime Minister, through lack of willpower, allowed the split to widen, with the result that the Conservatives suffered their greatest electoral defeat of the 20th century, even more catastrophic than that of 1945. The analogy is not original but although E.H.H. Green's excellent new book does not once mention John Major, it is impossible not to notice coincidences between his plight five years from the end of the century and Arthur Balfour's five years from his start.

Green can get inside the Tory mind. He understands what made late-Victorian and Edwardian Conservatives tick and has thought deeply about the crucial questions of the period. How is it, for example, that in an electoral system in which the propertyless man could for the first time outvote the propertied few, the upper-class-dominated party of property could thrive? How could the Tories counter the politics of envy and redistribution? Both the Liberals and Labour were able to offer material benefits to the masses which had eventually to be paid for by the propertied classes. Tariff reform, believes Green, was one of the ideas that the Conservatives came up with to outmanoeuvre them, and it might have worked — but for the cry of "Dear Food".

Green deals with these problems thematically. Imperialism, ideology, agriculture, social reform, industrial protection, the final clash of "fair trade" versus free trade: all get their own well considered and well written chapters. He is at home with Disraeli's romantic imperialist response as with Salisbury's "Villa Conservatism". Lord Salisbury was party leader for over half of the period covered by this volume, which takes the Tories from the 1880 election defeat to the outbreak of the Great War. His personal achievement in turning an electoral system which he had militantly opposed into a vehicle for Toryism is given the full prominence which it deserves.

Green is at his best in showing how the extra-parliamentary forces of deference, patriotism, snobbery, imperialism, Anglicanism and so on were pressed into Tory service. One is left feeling that it is a

shame so few of them still work today. His introductory essay, "The Peculiarities of Edwardian Conservatism", is a superb summing-up of his case. For a party which prides itself on being "national", the Tories throughout the ages have — except for exceptional periods, such as 1979-90 — been more easily defined by what they were against than what they were for.

The subtlety of Green's arguments are all the more remarkable considering the rather juvenile references this Reading University history lecturer makes in his preface to the "grim years" of the "academic recession" in the 1980s, when he was able to find intellectual stimulation despite "the Government's relentless philistinism". What could be more philistine than turning one's list of acknowledgements into a party political broadcast? Green has benefited greatly from conversations with his mentor Peter Clarke, whose biography of Joseph Chamberlain won plaudits last year.

The author is right to point out that national decline was as much a Tory preoccupation when British prestige and territorial greatness were at their apogee as it has been when this country was suffering a genuine — though relative — decline after 1945. He analyses the deep psychological impact of the Boer War — the British Empire's Vietnam, Green cites one of H.G. Wells's characters as saying "our Empire was very nearly beaten by a handful of farmers amidst the jeering contempt of the world... we felt it acutely for several years". Was it a factor in Britain being so quick off the mark into the Great War?

The lesson John Major can learn from this masterly account of the Tory Edwardian decade over Tariff Reform is clear. When a senior colleague — Kenneth Clarke, say, or Douglas Hurd — comes to him as Joe Chamberlain went to Balfour, with a scheme to put Britain at the heart of a protectionist, introverted federal trading bloc which involves serious constitutional implications for Britain's future, and he says that the only casualties will be free trade, cheap food and Tory unity, just show him the 1906 election results. The Tories won 157 seats against the Liberal Opposition's 400. Rather as the present polls are predicting for 1996.

WHAT WITH the ceasefire in Northern Ireland, the Channel Tunnel may be usable by those of us who, like myself, are vaguely claustrophobic and fearful of being stuck in a tunnel. But there could be other dangers. As our fishermen are invited to be good Europeans and give up their livelihoods for the sake of Spaniards, might they not take a leaf from the French primary-producers' book and blockade the tunnel just as French farmers have routinely blocked motorways and burnt lorries? It was thoughts such as these that prompted one British Government after another to stop the building of a Channel Tunnel.

Of course in the 19th century there were several plans for such a tunnel, and Keith Wilson's book is a useful list of them. Even by mid-century engineers could imagine some cross-Channel link — exploiting the fact that, in the middle, the bottom of the sea is only just below the surface. Bridging was a popular, but not practicable, notion (it would have led to an enormous tunneling catastrophe). Tunneling offered better and better prospects — the London Tube, let alone such marvels as the St Gotthard or Simplon Tunnels, were wonders of the age.

However, there were several interests that opposed the Channel Tunnel. It was expensive and for what? Bulky cargoes — and two-thirds of trade consisted of grain — would anyway have to go by ship. It has only been in the age of the super-lorry (and

## Hitler's showcase



July 1940: Victory in the West, a Nazi propaganda film, is screened in Guernsey

Norman Stone

**CHANNEL TUNNEL VISIONS, 1850-1945**  
By Keith Wilson  
Hambleton Press, £25  
**THE MODEL OCCUPATION**  
The Channel Islands under German Rule 1940-1946  
By Madeleine Bunting  
HarperCollins, £20

cheap fuel) that a tunnel makes sense, and even then the finances of the enterprise will probably price shipping into battle again, unless, as is possible, the company goes in for creative bankruptcy, and gets its debts written off. At any rate, Keith Wilson's is a thoughtful and informed book.

There were obvious fears in Parliament, firstly as to rats running over from the plague-ridden Continent, and then as to the possibility of enemy soldiers creeping through by surprise. Given the extraordinary enterprise that the Germans displayed in 1940 this was not as silly as it sounds. An army that could capture a Belgian fortress, Eben Emael,

just by landing a few paratroopers on its roof, with gymnastics on that muffled the sound of their landing, could just have brought off a *coup de main* against the Channel Tunnel. So the military argued against it, too.

Oddly enough, they never seem to have given a thought to a problem that, in 1940, did indeed prove to be a small headache: the Channel Islands. When France fell in 1940, these were indefensible — at the mercy of shore

artillery, their supply-lines hopelessly vulnerable. They were therefore abandoned — and in conditions of considerable confusion at that, with one set of officials urging evacuation of the populace, and another set trying to keep them on the islands. Victims of a Great British cock-up, the islanders were finally left to make their own arrangements with the Germans.

This problem was compounded several times over. In the first place, the Germans were distinguished by a peculiar obstinacy in error. One cause of their defeat was the enormous waste of resources that went into fortifying and defending places that had no hope of survival. Much of the

German Army spent the last two years of the war just looking out to sea — in Norway, on the Adriatic, in Courland, in the Channel Islands — waiting for an invasion that never came. In the Islands this led, as in the winter of 1944-45 in The Netherlands, to near-famine. In May 1945, when the surrender happened, the German troops themselves were starving, and had sometimes to be fed by the locals who benefited from a special arrangement made for neutral shipping to supply their needs, via Portugal.

There were episodes of great humanity in this story, as well as some very ugly ones, and Madeleine Bunting is a superb chronicler of what happened. She has done her work with survivors as well as with German, and even Russian, documents.

The problem with Hitler's fortification policy was that it depended upon forced labour. Tunnels under the rock, damp, cold, thin clothing, and poor food accounted for a high death-rate for the thousands of slave labourers brought in. There was a further ugly theme. As in France, the German policy towards Jews was to deport those who had not been locally born. There were a few unfortunate — a Viennese girl who had arrived as *au pair* to a Kentish family then found herself stuck, was deported (with the British police helping the Germans), and killed.

However, this Occupation was intended as Hitler's showcase. It was the calling card of "the New Order", and the Germans were on their best behaviour with the islanders. There were many cases of local girls finding German husbands, and of islanders saving Germans from captivity in 1945. The degree of collaboration may have been excessive. But if you want a classic example of the dilemmas of Resistance, here it is.

THE TIMES

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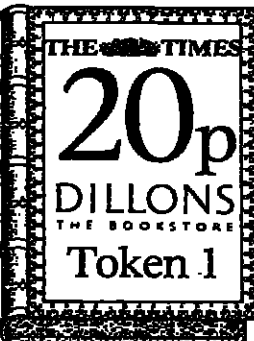
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Anthony Storr on a novel that asks: do we want to abolish grief?

# Better than well

SAINT RACHEL  
By Michael Bracewell  
Jonathan Cape, £9.99  
paperback original

Michael Bracewell's fifth novel tells the story of John, a young man with private means whose wife Anne has deserted him after five years of marriage. The anxiety and depression which followed were treated by his doctor with diazepam, propranolol, and Prozac, the anti-depressant which is sweeping America and which is said to make people "better than well".

During the early part of the book, John stays in his club, "The Chatham", which, judging from the description of the bedrooms, bar, and dining-room, is closely modelled on the Saville Club. John also consults his friend Tony who is first described as a clinical psychologist, but later, confusingly, referred to as a young doctor, practising in Harley Street. Psychologists are not medical doctors, although they may hold PhDs.

John is introduced to Rachel by his friend Jodie, who is dying of cancer. He falls in love with her at first sight. Jodie fails to tell him the truth about Rachel, but at one of Jodie's fashionable parties, a celebrity informs him that Rachel is "not what she seems". This does not deter John from sexual involvement with Rachel. They agree to meet in Paris, but before they do, Rachel dies in horrifying circumstances. The book ends with John, waiting to meet his cousin in Oporto, unable to feel despair at his loss because the drugs he is taking do not allow him to do so.

John is described as having created a routine of living which was a "timetable for survival", a means by which he could stave off his worst moods, a "rut" which he learnt to love, which was fostered and supported by the three varieties of drugs which he was taking. The routine is described in great detail.

He would take his tea and go to the bathroom, placing the mail on the window-sill between two bottles of ivory-coloured gel. He would place his tea on a narrow circular table which was edged with brightly coloured shells. Then he would clean his teeth. He favoured a clear green tooth-paste, pumped from a linear dispenser. His bath followed, described in equal detail. All this takes so long that it is mid-morning before he is ready to go out. Shopping follows; and, since he now lives in Worthing, he is able, on fine days, to enjoy a snack lunch on the balcony of his house.

John's routine is described as constituting "an escape



Watching a Memory, a composition by Gordon Parks, the octogenarian photo-artist, from his collection of poems and photography *Arias in Silence* (Little, Brown, £27.50)

from confusion and terror", but the author's description of it convinces one that he himself must be as obsessed as the protagonist of his novel. John comes across as so intensely boring that the reader immediately sympathises with his wife's abandonment of him.

However, the detailed descriptions of London bear witness to the author's sharp powers of observation; and he does raise an important question. How far is it justifiable to assuage the pains of living with drugs? In Britain, losing

one's marital partner is almost as common as losing one's purse. Does such a calamity need the dulling balm of Prozac? It is arguable that not facing pain head-on delays recovery. Moreover, although Prozac did not abolish sexual desire in John's case, gross diminution of the sex drive is a well-recognized side-effect. One somewhat sinister accompaniment of this chemical castration is that Prozac is also said to give confidence to the socially timid, turning the shy into high-powered salesmen. Is this what we want?

This novel may not be a great work of art, but it raises disturbing questions about what one writer has dubbed "cosmetic pharmacology". All effective drugs have undesirable side-effects and although anti-depressants certainly have their uses in dealing with severe depressive illness, there is little doubt that they are too often prescribed for too long at a time.

Dr Anthony Storr is a psychiatrist. His books include *Solitude*, *Churchill's Black Dog* and *Music and the Mind*.

Twelve years after her remarkable first novel, *Machine Dreams*, the American Jayne Anne Phillips has finally produced her second, *Shelter*. The narrative at once shows certain talents, which were already apparent in *Machine Dreams* and in her two volumes of short stories: a carefully wrought prose and a gift for giving accurate shape to the concealed nuances of experience.

The setting is a West Virginian girls' camp, summer 1963. Each chapter is told from one of four characters' point of view: Alma, Lenny, Buddy and Parson. Alma and Lenny are sisters, aged 12 and 15 respectively. Buddy is a small, wild boy, terrified by his violent stepfather, Carmody. Parson, one of the workmen laying pipes round the camp, is deranged: he sees the devil everywhere.

Not a great deal happens, but we enter their lives, and gradually understand what's going on. Buddy wants to get away from Carmody. Alma has a best friend, Delia, whose father died in an accident recently. Their friendship is complicated by the fact that Alma's mother was having an affair with Delia's father before he died. Does Delia know? It is not clear. When Delia sleepwalks, Alma looks at her eyes and feels sure that Delia does know, without knowing she knows.

"Knowing" is central to Jayne Anne Phillips's endeavour. The main characters, Alma and Lenny, are on the threshold of adulthood. Sex and guilt surround them like phantom forbidden fruit, knowledge waiting to be plucked. The atmosphere is

## Darkness at midnight

Kathy O'Shaughnessy

SHELTER  
By Jayne Anne Phillips  
Faber, £14.99

pregnant with violence that will later erupt. This provides the novel's suspense.

Explicitly, violence is voiced by Carmody, his thoughts rendered, like the others, in italics that are faintly portentous: "Know what it's like to kill someone, kill them with your hands? I killed her and

I'd kill her again." (The italics appear to signify that we are being given access to the characters' most archetypal thoughts.) Implicitly, violence is present in descriptions of objects or nature. "Browned and buttered, the rolls tore like innocent, bloodless flesh." The night is "bruised" with moon-



Jayne Anne Phillips: accurately shapes her experience

light, bats emit "the silent scream of the community", and so on.

There is no doubt about Phillips's talent. The children in the camp sleep at night, "pearling the night with their breath". This is beautiful prose, pitching a narrative of dream-like intensity. It gives an impression of depth that does not last: as they are reduced to the sum of their instinctive impulses, the characters stop being characters.

The climax arrives when Lenny and Alma encounter the violent Carmody. In the words of the blurb, "the sisters confront a terrible darkness". But this scenario — where the "primal" wilderness is the setting for an act or ritual of violence — is wearisomely familiar. The premise involves a vaguely mystic correlation between the "dark" forces of nature and the dark side of the human psyche. It is a fake correlation, intended to amplify and aggrandise: "Alma wanted to feel the anger rain down on her, wanted a series of screams that opened out until the earth shook, howls that would shatter glasses and stone, cries that were empty like the wind is empty..."

What a pity. Reading *Shelter* is like watching a play where the characters speak terrific poetry, but the drama itself is predictable, which makes the poetry redundant. Everything in *Shelter* is intelligently, beautifully described, but for what? One longs for a bit of coarse life, to shake the novel out of its brooding atmosphere. By now it is a cliché from American films that we are bored with: the idea that psychopathic horror is a sure path to profundity.

## Tales of a Polish Casanova

RARE ARE the books that seem to have been published as an act of pure idealism. There is no obvious commercial reason for translating from French and publishing a picaresque text of Gothic horror stories some 200 years

Still, you can hear the incantations in Viking's publicity department when dreaming up a campaign for Jan Potocki's *The Manuscript Found in Saragossa*: "Chaucer meets Angela Carter and Brett Easton Ellis". "Dante and Magic Realism go to Moorish Spain". Happily, we've been spared any of that.

Instead Viking has produced a beautiful volume, underlining Potocki's forgotten masterpiece as a work of real substance.

*The Manuscript Found in Saragossa* is bizarre, relentlessly inventive, and decidedly not a novel. It is more a textbook of crazy magic. Its models might be *Tristram Shandy* (without the perpetual jokiness), and, going further back, Boccaccio's *Decameron*. Spanning some 600 pages, this book, while genuinely entertaining, is told with absolute fictive integrity.

Its author was a swashbuckling Polish nobleman of the

early-Romantic Byronic mode. He helped to found ethnology, travelled all over the world, was one of the first men to go up in a balloon, fought with the Austrians, and dabbled in the politics of France and Russia. Twice married, he had five children (there may have been incest — of course) and shot himself in 1815 with, it is said, a home-made silver bullet.

In *The Manuscript Found in Saragossa*, Potocki's only full-blown work, he allowed himself something that many a contemporary novelist would envy: to dispense with the slightest whiff of veracity or "literary" structure. The tales, which is what this book consists of — dozens of them — just unfold.

The method is strikingly modern. Borges could have invented the scenario. An officer in the French Army during Napoleon's Spanish campaign finds some notebooks in an abandoned house in the Aragonese capital, Saragossa: he filches them, is captured, and asks a sympathetic Spanish captain to

translate the text into French. He writes it down from dictation.

The result is the "manuscript" of the title, a catalogue of tales recorded by a certain Alfonso van Worden in diary form over 66 days. He has been sent by his father in 1739 from Wallonia to join the Spanish Army, but is waylaid in the Sierra Morena, the mountain range separating Castile from Andalusia.

Holed up in an inn, Alfonso is then joined by a gang of gypsies, cabalists and hermits who choose to tell each other the stories of their lives. Alfonso sets them all down without any attempt at narrative logic: characters appear in each story only to tell their own stories, within which there are sometimes further stories.

Thus we have tales of Arabia, of ancient Rome and Egypt, of hangings, spontaneous murders, demonism and incarceration. For Alfonso himself Potocki reserved scenes of magnificent seduction. The author clearly en-

joyed getting his bewildered narrator into bed with an array of ethereal maidens, sometimes one, sometimes two, or more, at a time, and tantalisingly closing the curtains. What Alfonso wakes up to is invariably devilish.

IN THE best post-modernist sense, *The Manuscript Found in Saragossa* is a useless book, a book of Barthesian "jouissance" if ever there was one. There is no evidence that the great French critic of signs and inter-textuality ever came across it — an interpretation by Barthes would have ensured its earlier translation, and elevation, no doubt, to something bordering on cult status. As it is, the text appeared in France for the first time anywhere only five years ago — a true literary "find" nicely reflecting the fictional find of the title.

Its publication in English should be welcomed. The translation by Ian Maclean is crisp, lucid and unfussy. Between them he and Viking have put on the map a neglected work of remarkable eccentricity, which happens also to be readable.

James Woodall is writing a life of Jorge Luis Borges.

## In the long run we are all free

Sir Samuel Brittan has produced his own *Festschrift*. As well as a re-examination of some of the main issues which have preoccupied him during a generation of economic commentary, *Capitalism with a Human Face* includes a lively intellectual autobiography. But the author is as concerned with politics and morals as with economics. There is one error which he is especially determined to refute: the idea that there is a necessary connection between market economics and right-wing politics.

By temperament a man of the centre-left, Brittan will have none of it. To him, market economics is an essential part of the armoury of free men, if they are to resist "the absurdities produced by the moral authoritarianism and the economic collectivists alike". His first paragraph insists that "the individualist ethic is not merely defended but celebrated in this collection of essays, as a humane approach which allows plenty of scope for altruism and fraternity". A bold claim, but the text vindicates it.

It is clear that the problem of unemployment gnaws away at Brittan's peace of mind. There is no attempt to evade the distress behind the statistics. But he is dismissive of facile welfarist arguments, and has no patience with those who consider it immoral to recognise the market-clearing functions of pay and prices. Brittan offers no easy comfort. For him, the only way to tackle the problem is to eliminate supply-side rigidities, while finding ways of compensating the casualties without destroying the gains from trade and technology: classical economics plus a safety net.

He does not address himself directly to the spectre which is now haunting the unemployment debate: the fear that the Luddites may eventually be proved right. For 200 years, technological improvements and the liberalisation of world

Bruce Anderson

CAPITALISM WITH A HUMAN FACE  
By Samuel Brittan  
Edward Elgar, £15.95

THE STATE WE'RE IN  
By Will Hutton  
Jonathan Cape, £16.99



Gurus: Sam Brittan (left) and Will Hutton

trade have created more than enough new jobs to replace the ones which they eliminated. The danger is that in future, this will no longer be the case — or at least, that the jobs which might emerge would be so low-grade as to be incapable of sustaining a first-world standard of living. A market-clearing competition with Far Eastern labour is not an enticing prospect.

In his pursuit of a means of alleviating hardship without undermining productive capacity, Brittan considers the possibility of providing every adult with a basic income. But any comprehensive scheme would involve hideous costs; and any scheme which did not involve hideous costs would not be comprehensive.

As befits his restless intelligence, perennially sceptical of conventional wisdom, Brittan raises more questions than he answers. But this is a stimulating volume: one to sip, ponder and savour; a significant contribution to current debate.

The same cannot be said of Will Hutton's book, although it does

have some similarities with Sir Samuel's. *The State We're In*, too, is more preoccupied with politics and morality than with economics, but at a vastly less sophisticated level. Hutton has one overriding problem: his intelligence constantly pulls him away from his prejudices. He would like to indulge himself in a simple diatribe against Lady Thatcher and all her works, and to call for an equally simple-minded programme of radical change: at one stage, he does insist that Britain must "re-cast its economy, political structures and society". But he is honest enough to acknowledge some inconvenient facts.

He admits the success of Thatcherite supply-side reforms, plus the failure of the social chapter and similar policies to deal with unemployment on the Continent; he is also aware of the threat from the East. He agrees that the last Labour Government ended in economic failure and intellectual bankruptcy. Even if he does try to rehabilitate Keynesianism, he cannot muster any conviction behind the attempt. His chapter on "Why Keynesian Economics is Best" is the weakest in the book (there is competition), and should not be blamed on Keynes. It includes a childish caricature of market economics which could not survive two minutes' debate with Sir Samuel Brittan. Growth is Hutton's desideratum (who would disagree?), but this book was obviously finished before the present recovery had gained momentum. The growth rate is now about as fast as is sustainable.

Will Hutton, a generous fellow, is upset at the state of mankind; but unlike that equally generous fellow Samuel Brittan, he is not prepared to delve his way into the dilemmas with hard thinking. Hutton's hero Keynes advised the Liberal Party in the days when Liberals still took ideas seriously. Hutton's book would do very well for today's Liberal Democrats.

## Nobody's perfect

I ENJOY the thought that most human effort is expended in the ingenious satisfaction of a few basic needs and desires. Consider the glorious diversity apparent in our pursuit of food, drink, warmth and sex.

Richard Gordon's *Human Frailties* (Sinclair-Stevenson, £16.99) makes a similar case for our failings. Greed, lust, cruelty, culpable carelessness, helpless addiction and thoughtless indignation account for a great deal of human life. Or do they?

Major unpleasantness is rare. I agree with Stephen Gould that "ten thousand acts of kindness" — and not unbridled savagery — are the inconspicuous rule on the average day. Are the frailties of the quiet and private kind around. Occasional glimpses of the dark face of our nature are not meant to dispirit us unduly. The keynote is irreverent delight in human folly.

Some of the examples are familiar: the bursting of the South Sea Bubble, stretched beyond endurance by directors and investors' greed; the fate of the "unsinkable" *Titanic*, launched with lifeboats for only half its passengers; De Quincey's discovery of the "secret of happiness... corked up in a pint bottle", more costly than it seemed (although he survived TB and lived, despite opium, to the age of 74).

OTHER TALES are unfamiliar, and astonishing. Speculation in tulip bulbs became so heated in 17th-century Holland that a red, white and blue "Semper Augustus" fetched 4,600 florins (well above a top annual salary) with "a new and well-made carriage and two dapple grey horses and all accessories" thrown in. An unfortunate sailor trading in Amsterdam mistook one for an onion and consumed it raw. He was pursued by the owner and jailed for some months.

Le vice anglais, the infliction of pleasurable pain, receives its due share of attention. Edith Cresson would not be astonished to learn that in the last century at Eton "half a guinea for birches was charged on every boy's termly bill, whether he had the use of them or not".

We are all, in our own ways, experts on human frailty, whether we choose the major or the minor league of sin. Many of us would share Florence Nightingale's view. Given to implanting opium "with a silver knife under the skin of her thigh," she remarked sadly, "It does not improve the vivacity or serenity of one's intellect."

What of Gordon's own frailties? He is reticent, insisting that "the lifestyle of an ageing author is insufferably dull". Apart from a taste for bad puns, it is hard to fault this seasoned entertainer.

ADAM ZEMAN

THE TIMES

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All messages with gift must be received no later than Wednesday 8th February 1995. We reserve the right to omit an advertisement at our discretion.











"I wouldn't like it to become too regular and I think we

Kinnear and Jones were reported by Northumberland police after comments made in the aftermath of Wimbledon's 2-1 defeat against Newcastle United at St James' Park eight days ago, when Mike Reed, the referee, disallowed a last-minute equaliser from Jon Goodman. Kinnear claimed Reed had "cheated" Wimbledon, while Jones allegedly harangued Kevin Keegan, the Newcastle manager, in the dressing-room corridor. "Jones was reported to us by the police for comments he made to Keegan," an FA spokesman confirmed.



**In the women's event, Surya Bonaly is expected to sustain her dominance in Europe by winning a fifth successive title this week, despite repeated letdowns at world level. The Frenchwoman's success**

Bonaly, who begins her programme today, is believed to have hurt the little toe on her right foot while working on a trampoline. The injury did not appear to be affecting her workouts, however.

With less than 48 hours to acclimatise, Great Britain face a tough pool of three leading Australian club sides, Sydney St George, North Sydney and Penrith, with two matches in Brisbane tomorrow before the jamboree, which comprises a record 14 national sides and 33

**DRAW: Group 1:** Manly, Primmatti, Cronulla, Glewara  
**Group 2:** Sydney St George, Great Sydney, Sydney University  
**Group 3:** Canterbury, South Sydney, Eastern Suburbs, Newcastle  
**Group 4:** Western Suburbs, Perth, West and North, Brisbane Broncos, Queensland Crushers  
**Group 5:** North Queensland, New Zealand, West Auckland, Western Force  
**Group 6:** United States, Sydney Tigers, Fiji, Russia, South Africa  
**Group 7:** Papua New Guinea, Canada, Gold Coast, Japan  
**Group 8:** Western Samoa, Morocco, France, Tonga, Italy


**GREAT BRITAIN SQUAD:** J Bentley (captain), J. Hoggard (captain), S. Bletokley (Salford), F. Cummings (Leeds), L. Jackson (Sheffield), C. Joynt (St Helens), S. Prescott (St Helens), A. Smith (Gold Coast), P. Starling (Hull), N. Sumner (Bradford).

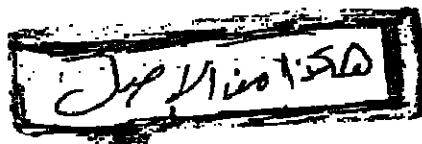
□ **Dewsbury**, of the second division, could lose home advantage for their Silk Cut Challenge Cup tie against Kells, the Cumbrian amateur side, after the third-round tie was postponed a third time on Tuesday because the pitch at New Crown Flatt was unplayable. The game has been rearranged for tomorrow and then Sunday, and if it is not played by then, is likely to be switched to Whitehaven.

□ **Widnes** have failed in an attempt to sign Andy Currier, their former Great Britain centre, on loan from Featherstone Rovers.

[illegible]

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Alan Lee finds the England captain in refreshingly candid mood

# Growing stronger from seeds of doubt

Michael Atherton has been subjected to more public scrutiny and emotional turmoil in the course of a single year than any young sportsman has a right to expect. As a typically tempestuous Ashes tour entered its final week, the England captain admitted yesterday that there are times when he wants to stop his runaway world and get off.

"It has been an incredible year," he said. "I might easily have given up this job last summer, after the dirt-in-the-pocket business, and I would be lying if I said there hadn't been times this winter when I wished I had done so. They have been fleeting feelings, usually gone the next morning, but I have certainly felt low enough, more than once, to ask myself some serious questions."

This was no melodrama, for Atherton does not flounce or pose for effect. He has not spent this tour forever on the brink of resignation, nor buried in persecution complexes, and neither, as some might believe, does he think he inherited the most unenviable job in sport. It is just that he is realistic about its burdens and expectations and, after a year in which a week has seldom passed without crisis, triumph or both, he still sometimes wonders if he is cut out for the life.

"I am not besotted by the thought of having my picture in the paper every day," he said. "In fact, I find it a pain in the backside. I am not a very public person, so that side of it is difficult for me. But I am also analytical about my own performance, which has meant I have had periods of self-doubt during this tour."

It was because of such inner concern that, in Adelaide last week, Atherton sought out Ian Chappell, a man whose record as the Australia captain he admires and whose comments on television he respects. The pair had dinner together and Atherton emerged feeling better about himself and his position. "He told me that I had one or two problem areas but that I was only a young bloke and I could not expect to be perfect," he said.

There is the crux. Atherton is only 26, and it is demonstrably unfair to demand perfection of him. Yet this is what has happened in regard to his demeanour, his disciplinary record, his tactics and his body language, let alone his results. That he is still in charge at all, after the turbulence of 1994, is to be wondered at and applauded.

Atherton has been criticised in Australia for being too negative, sometimes with good reason. He admits as much. But it must be remembered that, for much of the tour, his team has performed abysmally and unathletically, creating circumstances not quite ideal for gung-ho cricket.

"I have found this a much harder tour than last win-



Atherton, a realist with expectations intact, emphasises a point about his high-profile role as England captain

ter," Atherton admitted. "I had more empathy with last year's touring party for one thing. But I am well aware I have had a couple of poor games as captain here and that the scrutiny has been pretty intense. It has been an uncomfortable feeling."

"I always analyse what I have done after a day's cricket and as long as I can say I have done things for the right reasons, I am content. But in the Melbourne Test I was guilty of sending out negative vibes to the team. I was too defensive in their second innings. At Sydney, I was just too far off the pace. A good captain is ahead of the game

and I was always that bit too slow. This began to get to me and I started to make decisions on what other people felt rather than being confident in my own judgment."

Such candour from a captain is rare and refreshing but, coming from Atherton, no great surprise. The half-truth he told Peter Burge, the match referee, at Lord's last June, may forever be imprinted on his record, and he may occasionally be guilty of ambiguity to an assembled media, but his honesty is not in question. Neither is his strength of character, a virtue that has expressed itself

this winter in a determination to prove to Australia that English cricket is not peopled exclusively by wimps.

"After the last few Ashes series, they have regarded us as being namby-pamby," he said. "I read a comment by Steve Waugh about the afternoon he batted a long time to save the Trent Bridge Test in 1993. He said the English fielders began to chat to him in the last session and he knew then he had us by the throat. I can't abide that and I have set out to make us more aggressive, but I have not entirely succeeded because we are still not being hard enough on the field."

Atherton can be exempted from this. On the field, he is uncompromising. He denies that he neither talks to them nor socialises during a game. "I don't believe in passing pleasantries on the field and I don't go into their dressing-room for a beer at the end of a day," he said. "I won't stop any of my players from doing it but it isn't right for me."

In the search for national pride he has encouraged the wearing of proper, old-fashioned England caps, rather than the shabby, faded baseball imitations that had become a fad. And to show he is

not beyond a brush with etiquette if it brings him an advantage, he ran an over-throw, at a sensitive stage of the first morning in Sydney, after the ball had ricocheted off his own body. "Halfway down I thought, 'what the hell am I doing here?', but it did work in my favour. It upset them for some while afterwards."

He has been equally stern with the media conventions of Australia, refusing to speak to any of the cluster of television crews habitually gathered in airport arrivals halls and dismissing the radio stations that like to phone prominent people before breakfast time. He has not sought to make himself popular, and nor has he done so, but this sits well with his avowed disinclination to do anything for effect.

Atherton now admits to a mistake, in not insisting on a full practice session in Hobart before the first Test, but his policy remains to do nothing just to avoid a media clamour. The same goes for his personal appearance. The other day in Adelaide, he stood at the front

of the dressing-room balcony during the lunch interval in full view of the gawping occupants of the members' stand. He was unshaven and wearing only a shirt and jock-strap. It was entirely in character.

He thinks deeply about the game, believing domestic change essential. "There is now a genuine sense that something must be done and our winning a Test must not alter that," he said. He wants to see a two-division county system, with one fewer limited-overs competition. He would also like a player to be on the Test selection panel and suggests either Graham Gooch or Mark Nicholas.

English cricket is fortunate in having Atherton to give stability through these rocky times, not least because he is aware how short-lived it could be. "I try to think long-term in what is best for the side but I don't take it for granted that I will still be doing the job," he said. "We tend to change our captains pretty regularly."

"I am not looking over my shoulder but neither am I kidding myself I will still be doing this in ten years. I do think we can build a decent side and I hope I have the chance to do it. I can say that despite the past year because, if nothing else, it has given me the sort of sensations few other jobs could offer. You don't think so at the time but, in hindsight, even the lows have something to commend them."

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## Olonga makes quick strike

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

HENRY OLONGA took a wicket with his third ball in Test cricket as Zimbabwe continued to enjoy much the better of the first Test match against Pakistan in Harare yesterday.

Olonga, 18, the first black player to represent Zimbabwe at Test level, removed Saeed Anwar after coming on as first change. He had him caught down the leg side by Andy Flower, the wicketkeeper. It was an encouraging start for the fast bowler, who was not batted four times for throwing when the Pakistanis played the President's XI last week.

Pakistan, replying to Zimbabwe's imposing 544 for four

declared, reached 51 for one at the close of the second day. Zimbabwe's total, their highest in Test cricket, was based on a double century from Grant Flower and hundreds by his brother, Andy, and Guy Whittall.

The Flowers' stand of 269 for the fourth wicket was the highest between brothers in Test matches, surpassing the 264 Ian and Greg Chappell compiled for Australia against New Zealand in Wellington in 1974. It was also the highest for any wicket for Zimbabwe.

As Pakistan struggled, three former Test players lamented the national team's poor recent performances and said

that preparations for the World Cup, due to be held jointly with India in 1996, were inadequate. Fazal Mahmood and Imtiaz Ahmed, who captained Pakistan, and Nazir Mohammad called on the country's president, Farooq Ahmad Leghari, who is also chief patron of cricket, to intervene.

The president dissolved the Board for Control of Cricket in Pakistan in January 1994 and installed an *ad hoc* committee to handle cricket affairs. "We are not making serious preparations for the World Cup," Imtiaz said.

Scoreboard, page 44

## History beckons at Perth

By SIMON WILDE

FIVE weeks ago, only further humiliation seemed to await England's cricketers in Australia. Now, history beckons. If Michael Atherton's side can win the fifth Test match in Perth, which starts tomorrow, it will become only the second England team to avoid losing a Test series after being 2-0 down.

Atherton's injury ravaged and much criticised party will enter distinguished company if it succeeds, because its predecessors hail from a golden era of English cricket. Len Hutton's side, which won the third and fifth Test matches of the tour of the Caribbean in 1954 after losing the first two

by wide margins, boasted many famous names apart from his captain: Bailey, Compton, Evans, Graveney, Laker, Lock, May and Trueman all played in the victory in Jamaica with which the series was levelled.

Three other teams have recovered from 2-0 down, all while playing England. South Africa came back at home to draw, in 1927-28 and 1956-57, while Australia, in winning the last three matches of the Ashes series in 1936-37, are the only side in history to win from two down.

In view of the means by which they won in Adelaide on Monday, England will be

encouraged that the venue tomorrow is Perth, one of the most favourable grounds in the world for fast bowlers.

Although England themselves were routed there by McDermott, Hughes and Alderman four years ago, they will be willing to take their chances now, buoyed further by the knowledge that there will be little help for Warner, whose Test form at Perth is 62.1-12-164-1.

ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA AT PERTH: Results: played 7, England won 1, Australia 3, draws 3. Records (England first): Highest totals: 522-466 (1986-87); 401 (1974-75). Lowest totals: 182 (1950-51); 161 (1978-79). Highest innings: 162 by B.C. Brad (1982-83); 171 by R. Robinson (1970-71). Best bowling: 6-78 by T.T. Bohan (1978-79); 6-97 by C.J. McDermott (1980-81).

## Wrangle may delay Mansell deal

By OLIVER HOLT

HAGGLING over the minutiae of the deal between McLaren and Nigel Mansell is threatening to delay the announcement of their partnership beyond tomorrow. The sticking point now is disagreement over the retention of one of Mansell's personal sponsors. Both sides were given a bit more breathing space yesterday, though, when the start of the Formula One motor racing season was delayed for a fortnight.

Jordan and Benetton have already launched new cars, but many of the other teams were alarmed at the lack of time afforded them before the new season. Senior personnel were particularly concerned because extensive changes to the design of the cars have been demanded through rule

changes introduced by the International Motor Sport Federation. For them, the delay will be a welcome reprieve.

The postponement has been occasioned by the effects of the earthquake that struck Japan last month and damaged roads and communications in the area around Aida, where the Pacific Grand Prix was due to be held on April 16.

The Argentine Grand Prix, which was to have opened the season but has been plagued by doubts about the readiness of a new track in Buenos Aires, has been moved to April 9 to replace the Japanese race, and the season will now start in São Paulo, Brazil, on March 26.

The Pacific Grand Prix has not been abandoned, though. It will now take place on

October 22, one week before the Japanese Grand Prix at Suzuka, the first time races have been held so closely together in the same country. Such is the level of support for the sport there, however, that organisers believe that at-



Mansell: sticking point

tracting supporters will not be a problem.

Barcelona has been retained as the venue for the Spanish Grand Prix despite speculation that the race would be switched to Jerez, and the European Grand Prix at the Nurburgring has been moved forward one week to October 1. One which may be in jeopardy is the San Marino Grand Prix at Imola. Although it is still on the calendar, its fate may be decided when the long-awaited results of the inquiry into the death of Ayrton Senna three last May are made public.

The only new team in Formula One this year made its launch in Italy yesterday. The Brazilian, Pedro Diniz, will drive for Forti, who are stepping up from the European F3000 championship.

### RADIO CHOICE

## When lovers of song unite

Choral Voices. Radio 3, 4.30pm.

Not bad — for amateurs! It is snuff judgments such as this that are challenged in Andrew Green's and Peter Threlkirk's four programmes featuring non-professional choirs. They are among thousands of groups who entered the Sainsbury Choir of the Year competition held in Buxton, Derbyshire. This Radio 3 series restores to the word "amateur" its original French meaning — "lover of". These singers are lovers of song all right. How else could you explain the uniquely harmonious sound of the barbershop choruses we hear this afternoon? Choral Voices is probably radio's first in-depth analysis of the wonderful passion that can be generated when singers happily sacrifice their individuality.

Ten Pounds and a Box of Kippers. Radio 4, 11.00pm.

Once I stopped worrying about the excessive noisiness of episode one of Paul Brennan's comedy serial (producer Ian Michie should have had a quiet word with his sound engineer), I warmed to it. It has a grittiness that I feared would leave a dirty deposit on my hi-fi system. The setting alone would account for this: a depressing housing estate on a rain-swept promontory. The plot is gritty, too: unscrupulous property developer (Chris Wright) arranges for the local pubs to be smashed up so that he can get his greedy hands on the sites. Two former footballers (Guy Manning, Bill Fellows) join forces to throw a spanner in his works.

Peter Davaille

### RADIO 1

FM Stereo 4.00am Bruno Brookes 6.30 Steve Wright in the Morning 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa L'Anson, including at 12.30-12.45pm Newsbeat 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodlad, including The Amazing Spickard, and at 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat 7.00 Evening Session 9.00 Soundbite. Simple Minds review their new album, and there is an item on rock for lovers 10.00 Mark Radcliffe 12.00-4.00am Lynn Parsons

### RADIO 2

FM Stereo 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 8.15 Pause for Thought 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.15 Pause for Thought 8.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Gona Hunford 3.30 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 The Comedieness: Barry Reid (37) 7.30 David Allen 9.00 Paul Jones, including a session from the Bop Brothers Band 10.00 From Taurito to Tennessee and Back: Ashley Hutchings examines the cross-fertilisation of British and American music 10.30 The Jamesons 12.00am Steve Madden 3.00 Alex Lester

### RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, including at 6.55 and 7.55 Racing Preview 8.35 The Magazine, including at 9.40 Film Review, 10.35 Euronews: 11.00 Gut Reaction 12.00 Medley with Mel, including at 12.34pm Liz Barclay with Moneycheck 2.05 Ruscoe on Five, including at 3.15 Prime Minister's Question Time 4.00 Investment Nationwide 7.30 News Extra, including at 7.30 sport 7.35 Women on Top 8.05 Arthur Smith on the Floor, topical debate from Southampton University 9.05 SportsAmerica 10.05 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra, including at 11.45 The Financial World Tonight 12.00am Night Moves 2.05-7.00 Test Match: Australia v England. First day of the fifth Test

### RADIO 3

6.55am Weather 7.00 On Air: Presented by Andrew McGregor. Mozart, an evening of Frauentext (Adagio and Allegro); Wolf (Italienisches Liedchen); Nos 9-12; Strauss (Till Eulenspiegel's Lustige Streiche); Wilhelm (Sule: Scaramouche); Tullis (Mozart: Spem in alium); Mozart (Pam: Concerto No 4 in E flat) 9.00 Composer of the Week: Taverner. Christopher Page looks at one of Taverner's most famous works, the Mass Western Wyndy 9.45 Musical Encounters with Piers Burton-Page. Wilfred Josephs (Concerto for Light Orchestra); Dvorak (Serenade in D minor for wind, Op 12); Bach (Brandenburg Concerto No 3 in G); 10.30 Artist of the Week: Jacques Thibaud, in A, Op 47, Kreutzer; 11.00 Saint-Saëns (The Assassination of the Duke of Guise, Op 129); Florent Schmitt (Kermesse-Valse, L'Éventail de Jeanne); Berlioz (Celtic Symphony). Interspersed with settings of Hosian's A Strophophony 12.00 Ensemble: Jill Anderson introduces a recital by the Leopold String Trio Schubert (Allegro in B flat, D 471); Manu (Trio No 2); Beethoven (Trio in G, Op 9 No 1) 1.00pm The BBC Orchestra: BBC Philharmonic under Sachio Fujioka. Rimsky-Korsakov (Overture: May Night); Lyadov (The Enchanted Lake); Rachmaninov (Symphonic Dances, Op 45)

### RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing, Weather 6.10 Farming Today, 6.25 Prayer for the Day, with Paul Starling 6.30 Today, incl 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 6.55 Weather 7.25, 8.25 Sport 7.45 Thought for the Day 7.55 Weather 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.58 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Face the Facts, with John Wiles 9.30 Never the Same Again: Jenni Mills talks to families about how they have weathered periods of crisis. During the miners' strike, one traumatic day cast a lasting shadow over Emie's career as a policeman 10.00-10.30 News: In the Red (FM only): The fifth instalment of a blackly humorous murder mystery from the novel by Mark Taper 10.00 Daily Service (LW only) 10.15 The Pilgrim's Progress (LW only) (19/25) (F) 10.30 Woman's Hour: Nancy Durham explores the blossoming women's movement in Albania 11.30 From Our Own Correspondent 12.00 News: You and Yours 12.25pm Looking Forward to the Past: Paul Bostang, MP, is joined by Professor John Durant, Nina Myskow, Arthur Smith and Norman Willis 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One 1.40 The Archers (1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News: Thank You for Talking to Me, Africa, by Obinell Smith. A chance meeting takes Barry to Africa in search of family history

### RADIO 4

3.00 The Afternoon Shift 4.00 News 4.05 Kermesse-Valse: Paul Allen sees a stage adaptation of Paul Theroux's book. Alessandro Costa: George Mackay Brown. Read by Forbes Masson (F) 5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather 6.00 News 6.30 The Skivers: Innovative sketch series 7.00 News 7.25 The Archers 7.25 Priest and Priestess: A look at what the first year has been like for women ordained into the priesthood 8.00 Analytical: Financing Our Futures. The selling of unsuitable personal pensions has left thousands worse off, and the financial services industry facing a huge compensation bill. Peter Wilson-Smith asks who is to blame 8.45 Bloopers: Jonathan Hewal, a university lecturer in radio, presents the fifth programme of classic radio catastrophes from the live archive 9.00 Does He Take Sugar? 9.30 Kaleidoscope (F) 9.59 Weather 10.40 The World Tonight 10.45 Look at Britain: The Initiates in the Heat (F) 11.00 Ten Pounds and a Box of Kippers: See Choice 11.30-12.00 Ad Lib (FM only): Robert Robinson quizzes those who have taken on village shops and post offices in the West Country 11.30-12.00 Today in Parliament (LW only) 12.00-12.30 News, incl 12.27 Weather 12.33 Shipping 12.43 As World Service (LW)

RADIO 1: FM 97.8-99.8. RADIO 2: FM 99.8-102.2. RADIO 3: FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4: 1984-1515. FM 92.4-94.1. LW 198. RADIO 5: 630-14/433m; 909-14/330m. LONDON RADIO: 1152-14/251m. FM 97.3. CAPITAL: 1548-14/194m; FM 95.8. GLR: FM 94.9. WORLD SERVICE: MW 648-14/433m. CLASSIC FM: FM 100-102. VIRGIN: MW 1215, 1197, 1242 14/2. Listings compiled by Peter Dear and Gillian Macey

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## Critical condition, not necessarily serious

Dear Mrs Bottomley, I often picture you sitting at home on a Saturday night eating fish and chips off your elegant lap, leafing through the contents of yet another Red Box and lifting an eye occasionally to see what left-wing propaganda *Casualty* is putting over this week.

Dreadful, aren't they, especially since that Woman who used to produce *EastEnders* was brought in to give the series a bit of speed, I agree, it has gone downhill, but of course Charlie still writes about nursing shortages and the junior doctors still fall asleep in the middle of an appendectomy, having had only four hours' sleep since the middle of 1987.

I can hear you now, shouting at the screen: "More patients treated! More hips! More kneest! You must often want to flee the whole ungrateful lot of us and spend some time in the company of cardio doctors and nurses, upbeat

guys and gals, the kind of person one might come across in America. So it must be galling, every time you book a flight to New York, to discover via the *Nine O'Clock News* that another tall, elegant, fair-haired Englishwoman is striding around a Harlem hospital, offering comfort to the ailing. To think that the Princess of Wales probably knows more about the American medical system than the Secretary of State for Health.

Do not despair. Try Chicago. Admittedly, you won't get to eat with Calvin Klein in Chicago. Granted, Chicago and the South Pole are meteorologically indivisible at this time of the year. But heck (see how we are already into the American argot) you do not have to go to Chicago, for Chicago has come to you. The entire American hospital system, laid out in all its frantic glory, right here on television.

It started last night with a 90-

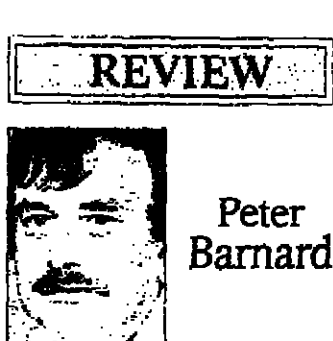
minute pilot episode, it continues next week in hourly segments, and it is called *ER* (Channel 4). You will know nearly as well as the Princess of Wales that *ER* stands for emergency room, so *ER* is the *Casualty* of America.

But *ER* is not just *Casualty* with speed (although it is that, too). *ER* is *Casualty* on speed. *ER* is, if I may tinker with your own fine rhetoric, more hip! More kneest-slapping!

From the point of view of the ordinary viewer, the best thing about *ER* is that it has proper dialogue, the sort of exchanges one might remember for more than ten seconds. Whereas of course *Casualty* is famous for having dialogue that sounds like real life, ie, boring.

For the extraordinary viewer, and who is more extraordinary than yourself, Mrs Bottomley, I think the main interest, the principal area of comfort, probably lies in the fact that whingeing doctors and nurses are not a phenomenon unique to the National Health Service (as it was called at the time of going to press).

No, within five minutes of *ER* starting, a junior doctor, what the Americans call a resident, responded to a suggestion that he make his own coffee by pointing out that he worked "18 hours on, eight



## REVIEW

Peter Barnard

hours off, 92 hours a week. 52 weeks a year."

Now that you have reduced the working hours of our own junior doctors to 72 a week, I should have thought that the next time they sleepwalk to your door protesting about packing thus: "More hips! More kneest! Try Chicago if you don't like it here!"

In Chicago, the miserable agitators of *Casualty* would discover the sort of dialogue you would not want to hold near a naked flame, so much does it crackle and hum. The chief crackler is Dr Peter Benton (Eriq La Salle), who is soon humming over a younger doctor sent to stitch a hand wound: "You still here? Whaddya think you're doing, the Sistine Chapel? Benton is a man after your own statistics, Mrs B, a man as dedicated to patient throughput as your own good self.

He even professes to believe that

the patients are more important than the doctors. Not all the doctors are fans of Benton, however, as when a radiologist describes him as "a man of many talents, all unproven."

The key thing about *ER*, Mrs B, is that the doctors, the patients, the nurses, the administrators... never get outside the hospital. Now of course in *Casualty* everything starts outside the hospital, so that en route to rubbishing your own fine department we have the little girl falling off the swing because it wasn't maintained properly or the builder falling off his scaffolding because the regulations aren't strict enough.

By the time *Casualty* reaches the hospital just about every office of state short of the Keeper of the Queen's Bees has been dragged through the mud. But in *ER*, you get the impression that they have

to pump in daylight. None of the cast possesses street clothes. This serves to exclude politics, and cut the budget.

At the same time, via Michael Crichton's wonderful script (the originally wrote it 20 years ago) and filming techniques which nod heavily at *NYPD Blue*, the piece has a claustrophobic intensity which befits its status as a Steven Spielberg production.

With another drama of this quality crossing the Atlantic, one wonders how American television manages to be "full of rubbish": as the saying goes. Surely it cannot be that the only good shows over there are all on television over here?

Possibly, Mrs B, but I am more inclined to think that such disparagement is in the same category as Mark Twain's aphorism about lies and statistics, an area perhaps best left unexplored in this particular context. Yours ever,

- BBC1**
- 6.00 Business Breakfast (30314)
- 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (62012956)
- 9.05 Kilroy. Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject (9530647)
- 10.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (7533958) 10.05 Good Morning with Anne and Nick (s) (88175182)
- 12.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (1418452) 12.05 Pebble Mill. A special dedicated to Eric Sykes's 40 years in showbusiness (s) (2844024) 12.55 Regional News and weather (75726314)
- 1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (95956)
- 1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) (9254463) 1.50 Timekeepers. Quiz with Bill Dod (s) (92555579)
- 2.15 FILM: Not Enough for June (1995) starring Dirk Bogarde. Sylvia Koscina, Robert Moly and Leo McKern. A James Bond spoof with Bogarde as an out-of-work writer who is recruited by the secret service for a mission to Czechoslovakia. Directed by Ralph Thomas (833314)
- 3.50 Jackanory. Part 2 of Tommy Niner and the Mystery Spaceship (s) (3217208) 4.00 SuperTed (s) (4555757) 4.10 Robinson Crusoe. (Ceefax) (706163) 4.35 Sloggers. Comedy drama about a young cricket XI. (Ceefax) (s) (5037821)
- 5.00 Newsround (7781376) 5.10 Blue Peter. Includes details of the new Star Trek film. (Ceefax) (s) (9124956)
- 5.35 Neighbours (s). (Ceefax) (s) (902550)
- 6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (37)
- 6.30 Regional news magazines (89)
- 7.00 Top of the Pops. (Ceefax) (s) (4258)
- 7.30 EastEnders. (Ceefax) (s) (73)
- 8.00 Animal Hospital Week. Rolf Harris and Steve Night visit the RSPCA Harlow Hospital in Harlow, North London. (Ceefax) (s) (6918)
- 8.30 Now to Earth. Comedy series starring Richard Briers as an expert trying to readjust to life in Dilligly. (Ceefax) (s) (8753)
- 9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (9453)



Rowan Atkinson as Sir Henry Birkby (9.30pm)

- 9.30 Heroes and Villains: Full Throttle. (Ceefax) (s) (80753)
- 10.30 Question Time from London presented by David Dimbleby. (Ceefax) (75847). Wales: The State 11.00 Question Time 12.00 Cagney and Lacey 12.45am Spirit of Islam 1.05-2.35 Film: Roadhouse 68
- 11.30 Cagney and Lacey. American policewomen drama starring Sharon Gless and Tyne Daly (s). (Ceefax) (204883)
- 12.15am Spirit of Islam. The first of four weekly programmes for Ramadan. (Ceefax) (s) (702999)
- 12.35 FILM: Roadhouse 68 (1984) starring William Dalton and Judge Reinhold. Action thriller about a disparate couple who team up to take on a group of louts who get their thrills terrorising people driving along Arizona's Route 66. Directed by John Mark Robinson (9405703) 2.05 Weather (5388241)

## VARIATIONS

- ANGLO**
- As London except: 1.55 The Young Doctors (2556918) 2.50-3.20 Take the High Road (313589) 3.10-3.40 Shondor Street (421824) 4.25-5.00 Angles News (97959) 5.47-6.00 Corner Story (9151043) 11.10 Side Effects (933482) 12.05am Married with Children (121515) 12.30am Lethal Weapon (121515) 12.55am The Best of the Best (979485) 3.35 Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (953058) 4.00 Quiz News (97173) 4.25-5.00 Videotext (927918)
- CENTRAL**
- As London except: 1.55 A Country Practice (925488) 2.50-3.20 Take the High Road (313589) 3.10-3.40 Shondor Street (421824) 4.25-5.00 Angles News (97959) 5.47-6.00 Corner Story (9151043) 11.10 Side Effects (933482) 12.05am Married with Children (121515) 12.30am Lethal Weapon (121515) 12.55am The Best of the Best (979485) 3.35 Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (953058) 4.00 Quiz News (97173) 4.25-5.00 Videotext (927918)
- GRANADA**
- As London except: 12.35 Shortland Street (941182) 1.25am The Big Bang (927107) 1.55am The Big Bang (927107) 2.30 The Main Ingredient (13100918) 2.50-3.20 The Big Bang (927107) 3.10-3.40 Shondor Street (421824) 4.25-5.00 Angles News (97959) 5.47-6.00 Corner Story (9151043) 11.10 Side Effects (933482) 12.05am Married with Children (121515) 12.30am Lethal Weapon (121515) 12.55am The Best of the Best (979485) 3.35 Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (953058) 4.00 Quiz News (97173) 4.25-5.00 Videotext (927918)
- HTV WEST**
- As London except: 2.25 Gardening Time (927107) 2.50-3.20 The Big Bang (927107) 3.10-3.40 Shondor Street (421824) 4.25-5.00 Angles News (97959) 5.47-6.00 Corner Story (9151043) 11.10 Side Effects (933482) 12.05am Married with Children (121515) 12.30am Lethal Weapon (121515) 12.55am The Best of the Best (979485) 3.35 Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (953058) 4.00 Quiz News (97173) 4.25-5.00 Videotext (927918)
- HTV WALES**
- As HTV West except: 6.30-7.00 Wales Tonight (927107) 7.30-8.00 Wales Tonight (927107) 8.30-9.00 Wales Tonight (927107) 9.30-10.00 Wales Tonight (927107) 10.30-11.00 Wales Tonight (927107) 11.10-11.40 Wales Tonight (927107) 11.45-12.00 Wales Tonight (927107) 12.05-12.30 Wales Tonight (927107) 12.35-1.00 Wales Tonight (927107) 1.05-1.35 Wales Tonight (927107) 1.40-2.10 Wales Tonight (927107) 2.15-2.45 Wales Tonight (927107) 2.50-3.20 Wales Tonight (927107) 3.25-3.55 Wales Tonight (927107) 4.00-4.30 Wales Tonight (927107) 4.35-5.00 Wales Tonight (927107) 5.05-5.35 Wales Tonight (927107) 5.40-6.10 Wales Tonight (927107) 6.15-6.45 Wales Tonight (927107) 6.50-7.20 Wales Tonight (927107) 7.25-7.55 Wales Tonight (927107) 8.00-8.30 Wales Tonight (927107) 8.35-9.05 Wales Tonight (927107) 9.10-9.40 Wales Tonight (927107) 9.45-10.15 Wales Tonight (927107) 10.20-10.50 Wales Tonight (927107) 10.55-11.25 Wales Tonight (927107) 11.30-12.00 Wales Tonight (927107) 12.05-12.30 Wales Tonight (927107) 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## Tufnell's place under threat as Ramprakash prepares to reinforce batting

England aim to  
get even by  
relying on pace

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN PERTH

ENGLAND must tomorrow recreate the mood that has given them an implausible chance of squaring the Test series against Australia. The problems are that even those most closely concerned with the win on Monday in Adelaide have no clear idea from where the inspiration came and that such spectacular performances have previously been the precursor of an abrupt regression.

Inconsistency has been the greatest enemy of the modern England team. They have too often been unbeatable one week and unplayable the next. On the fast, bouncy pitch here in Perth, where the final Test is now spiced with possibilities barely imaginable a week ago, the trail is routinely destroyed. Two years ago, Australia came here in the aftermath of their one-run defeat by West Indies in Adelaide and failed to take the game beyond lunch on the third day.

Something similar could happen to Australia now, for the struts have suddenly gone out of their game and Perth always was the place where Devon Malcolm was most likely to do for England what Curly Ambrose did for West Indies. But if Malcolm and his side can produce such marauding cricket twice in succession they will be breaking a frustrating trend.

Yesterday, as the teams practised beneath the cloudless skies of a city where there has been not a drop of rain this year, two issues were paramount: team selection and match referees.

In the one case, England's debate centred on two players, Chris Lewis and Mark Ramprakash, who were not even on the tour a week ago. In the other, the disciplinary warnings now hanging over a variety of players threatened to disguise the fact that the behaviour in this series has been almost entirely inoffensive.

Ramprakash, who was in India with the England A side this time last week, is prepar-

ing to play his first Test since last April in Antigua. He was chosen for the final four Tests of the series against West Indies, batting at No 3 and scoring a mere 73 runs in seven innings. His overall Test record, showing only one half-century in 24 starts, is no more reassuring.

But the belief persists that he can develop the temperament to accompany his technique. He is likely to bat no higher than No 6 and among those ahead of him will be Graham Gooch, who is breaking the England appearance record in his final Test, and Mike Gatting, who is equally

**'The idea of being pictured in the paper every day is a pain. I'm not a public person'**

— Michael Atherton on the trials of captaincy, page 46

unlikely to be seen at this level again.

England require a sixth specialist batsman with Steven Rhodes, the wicketkeeper, in such unproductive form. The upper-order players have made a habit of falling short of match-influencing scores. England have registered 15 half-centuries in this series but only one has been converted into a hundred.

The consequence of an extended batting order is a four-man attack and the predicament facing the selectors is whether to follow their instincts and play seam bowlers exclusively. The alternative, a long-shot at this stage, is to retain Phil Tufnell and reject Lewis, whose chequered Monday afternoon contained four wickets and a gesture that raised the ire of the match referee, John Reid, and instigated the focus on player behaviour.

Michael Atherton, the cap-

tain, finds himself at the eye of this unseasonal storm. He has no argument with this, for the international code of conduct clearly states that a captain is responsible for the conduct of his players, and he concedes that Reid had warned him more than once, before giving him a public reprimand on the back of Lewis's fine. But he does not accept, and neither should he, that his team is worthy of particular censure.

"The England team's discipline over the past few years has been fairly exemplary," Atherton said yesterday, "and this has been a well-behaved contest, a pleasure to play in. John Reid is here as part of the authorities' efforts to clean up the game and all our players know that he is not here on holiday. But we have made a conscious effort to get more aggression into the team and I don't think you can play cricket worrying about the match referee."

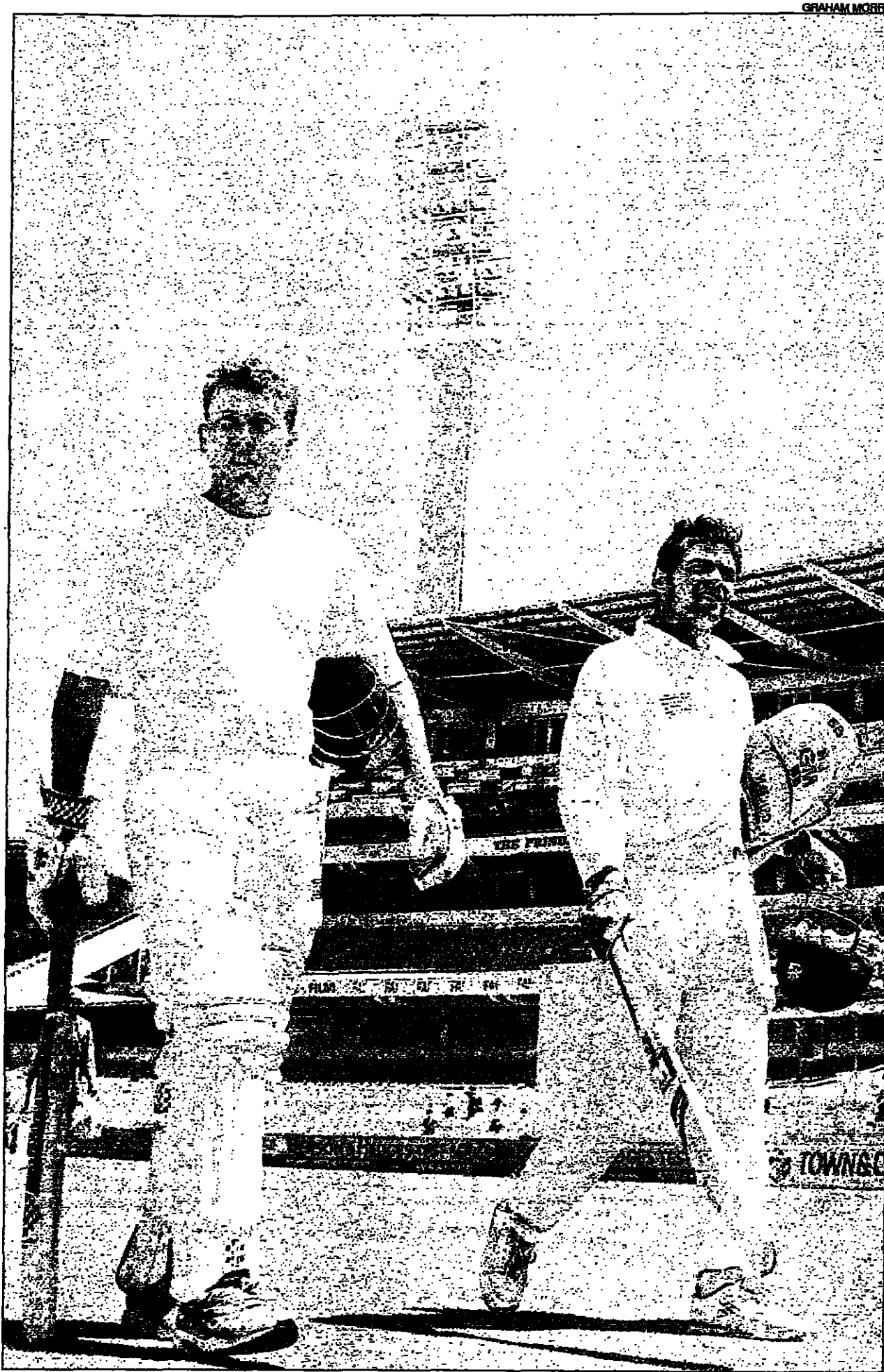
Malcolm, who has been told by Atherton to cut out his idiosyncrasy of pointing a dismissed batsman to the pavilion, is one of several in this series marked down by Reid as "last-chancers", due for disciplinary measures should they offend again. Shane Warne and Ian Healy, it is understood, are in a similar position.

Yet the offences committed have been minor and greater damage to the game is being done by the cynical slowing-up of play by teams in trouble. Both sides have been guilty during this series and Atherton owned up yesterday to wasting time with a purpose during the second Test in Melbourne. Reid has available sanctions to discipline captains for this, too, and may not hesitate to use them if it occurs again here.

**PROBABLE TEAMS:** Australia: M A Taylor (captain), M J Slater, D C Boon, M E Waugh, S R Waugh, G S Blewett, I A Healy, B P Johnson, S K Warne, G D McGrath, C J McDermott. 12th man: J Angell.

**ENGLAND:** G A Gooch, M A Atherton (captain), M W Gatting, G P Thorpe, J Catterall, M P Richardson, S J Pringle, C C Lewis, P A J DeFreitas, A R C Fraser, D E Malcolm. 12th man: P C R Tufnell.

Lock cleared, page 7



Atherton, left, and Ramprakash, the England party's most recent recruit, during practice at the Waca yesterday

Peso crisis  
threatens  
cash prize  
initiative  
for Mexico

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

MEXICO'S financial crisis threatens to scupper plans by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) to introduce prize-money at the 1997 world championships in Mexico City. Sources close to the organisers said yesterday that the IAAF had earmarked a pool of \$7 million (£4.4 million) from which prize-money would be awarded in Mexico City.

They said the organisers of the 1997 world championships in Stuttgart and this year's championships in Gothenburg had received \$7 million from the IAAF to help to stage the meetings, but the IAAF had now decided to set this sum aside for prize-money at the 1997 championships.

It was anticipated at the 1997 world championships that athletics would go the way of other sports and award substantial prize-money, the sources said. "But because of the peso crisis, we have a situation where we are being asked not only to give the organisers \$7 million, but maybe \$10 million."

On Tuesday, the IAAF spokesman, Christopher Winter, said that the IAAF was concerned about the situation in Mexico but that there were no plans to seek an alternative venue.

Although winners in Stuttgart were awarded a Mercedes sports car, there has been growing agitation among athletes and their agents for prize-money.

Nourredine Morceli, of Algeria, the world's leading middle-distance runner, originally refused to defend his world 1,500 metres title in Stuttgart unless there was prize-money, and claimed that Carl Lewis had been sid appearance money. The allegation was denied by the IAAF and Lewis's manager, Joe Douglas.

Morceli eventually ran, and won, in Stuttgart after reaching an agreement with the IAAF. Both Morceli and the IAAF said no money had been involved.

Last July, the IAAF president, Primo Nebiolo, told a news conference at the Goodwill Games in St Petersburg that he was not opposed to prize-money, but added that it was a matter for all Olympic federations.

## Mild Mr Smith who became Mr Liverpool

SIR JOHN SMITH, the former chairman of Liverpool FC who died yesterday, had a record of stewardship that will never be surpassed yet also a humility beyond the comprehension of so many of the greater egos in the game.

He was chairman of Liverpool for 17 years, during which the club established the longest sustained domination of a national sport in this or any other European country. Liverpool, under his leadership, won 22 leading trophies, including the League championship ten times, the FA Cup three times and the European Cup on four occasions.

Yet this dapper little man, always so careful to observe probity and correctness at every turn, would never accept in public that his was a

dominant role. In February 1982, asked to give an interview about his own path to the chair from being a supporter on the terraces, he declined. "That is not the way of Liverpool," he said. But he had a suggestion. He arranged a meeting in the boardroom with himself, Peter Robinson, his faithful club secretary, and Bob Paisley, the man whom Sir John prevailed on to succeed Bill Shankly as manager.

The point was that Liverpool was ruled by a triumvirate; all for one, one for all. No wonder this became the slogan of the Sports Council, which Sir John also later chaired. He demonstrated that day what he insisted was the daily routine of the club which was already in place before he inherited it. "We are the

**Rob Hughes pays his tribute to the man at the helm when Liverpool were the dominant team in Britain and Europe**

management team on the board," Sir John said in his measured, precisely weighed terms. "We talk every day of our lives about players, about how to sustain and improve things. It is a cliché, but a truism, that we are servants of the many people who sustain Liverpool FC."

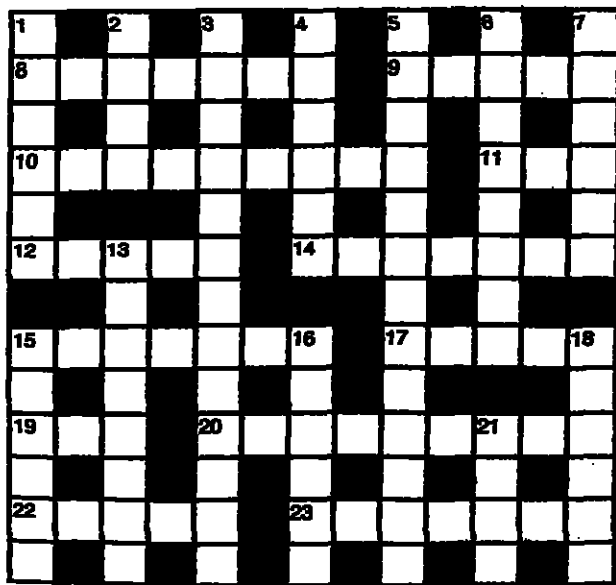
With Paisley and Robinson joining in the theme, one learned in an afternoon the "secret" of thoroughness, the integrity and consistency

that made Liverpool, at least until John Smith stood down and Graeme Souness became manager, the club that everyone envied.

One could not persuade Sir John in subsequent meetings to speak about the pain that followed either the Hillsborough catastrophe or the personnel changes at the club. One could readily trigger from him repetitions of what he regarded as the foundation stones of the club. "We are not in the business here of selling commodities," he reiterated. "We are trying to do the hardest thing in the world, to get the best out of 11 chaps on the field of play at a given time. That's all we are here for... even in this day and age of the computer, people matter at Anfield."

Robinson, now chief executive,

Obituary, page 21



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TIMES TWO  
CROSSWORD  
No 385

## ACROSS

- 8 One with feet on ground (7)
- 9 Instill, permeate (5)
- 10 Sharpener for edged tools (9)
- 11 Rower's blade (3)
- 12 Tower of London bird (5)
- 14 Compel observance of (rule) (7)
- 15 Cleaner; footballer; 11 (7)
- 17 Saint, Lindisfarne founder (5)
- 19 Stocking ladder (3)
- 20 Try to overhear (9)
- 22 Body of men (chasing criminal) (5)
- 23 Traveller's bags (7)

## DOWN

- 1 Sliding container; artist (6)
- 2 Relaxation (4)
- 3 Assorted small things (4,3,6)
- 4 Superfluous (6)
- 5 Ceremony marking new stage of life (4,2,7)
- 6 Loathed (8)
- 7 Funeral carriage (6)
- 13 From Austrian capital (8)
- 15 Abrade (skin); difficult situation (6)
- 16 Turn against authority (6)
- 18 Sibling's son (6)
- 21 Study (university subject) (4)

## SOLUTION TO NO 384

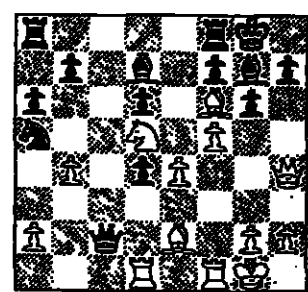
ACROSS: 5 A pretty penny 8 Pelmet 9 Aspire 10 Skew 12 Fiercer 14 Modicum 15 Ulina 17 Sprout 18 Unlike 20 Assimilation

DOWN: 1 Habeas corpus 2 Grim 3 Dynamic 4 Temporal 6 Tutu 7 Nerve-racking 11 Episodic 13 Sustain 16 Pupa 19 Loth

## WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Gallagher - Schweizer, Bad Zurzach, 1995. England's Joe Gallagher has a reputation as a dangerous attacking player on the international circuit. How did he finish Black off here with a neat tactic?



Solution, page 44  
Raymond Keene, page 11

## WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

## ASPINALL

- a. To love animals more than humans
- b. To repaint
- c. To loop-the-loop

## CUPFERRON

- a. A heraldic goblet
- b. A riposte with épée
- c. A crystalline compound

## ENSTOOL

- a. To enthron
- b. Tight constipation
- c. A right-angled screw

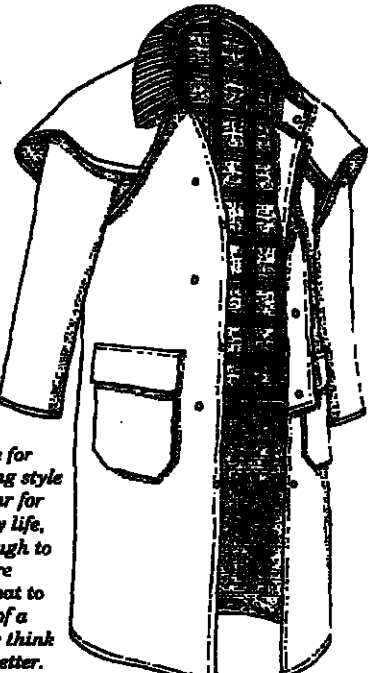
## DAGGING

- a. A carpet fringe
- b. Boasting
- c. Clipping wool

Answers on page 44

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